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ARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
FOR NEW ENGLAND

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Women

Writter Discipline 1762?

**YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
FOR NEW ENGLAND**

Christian & Brotherly Advices Given forth from time to time By the Yearly Meeting in London Alphabetically Digested under Proper Heads—

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N.^o 1. Concerning Appeals.

1727.

1727

Committee to be Yearly chosen to Judge of all Appeals

This Meeting agrees. That for the time to come A Committee be yearly Chosen at the Opening thereof immediately after the Clerk is Chosen. to Judge of the fitness of Receiving all Appeals that shall be Offered, And to hear all Appeals which they shall Judge come duly before them; And Report their Opinion thereof, in Order for the Approbation, Rejection or Amendment of this Meeting: And that no deputy of any City or County from which an Appeal shall come be admited a Member of that Committee in Relation to such Appeals.

Time Limited.

And whereas it is inconvenient that the Time Should be unlimited; It is therefore Agreed by this Meeting. That if any Person or Persons shall think him her or themselves Injured or Agrieved by the Monthly, Two Weeks, or other Meeting, of which he she or they were a Member or Members, Such Person or Persons may then Appeal to the Quarterly Meeting to which the s.^d Monthly, Two Weeks or other Meeting doth belong; Provided Notice be given of such intended Appeal, in three Months after such Judgment given, And the Appeal be Lodged in Such Quarterly within Six Months after such Notice.

from monthly or two Weeks to Quarterly meetings

And if any Person or Persons be dissatisfied with the Judgment of any Quarterly Meeting They may Appeal from such Judgment to the Yearly Meeting; He, She, or They giving Notice to the said Quarterly Meeting of their Intention to Appeal within Six Months after the Judgment of such Quarterly Meeting be given; And such Appeal be brought to the next Yearly Meeting, if it may with Conveniency, or to the next following after it.

From Quarterly to Yearly meetings

And if any Monthly, Two Weeks, or other Meeting, Do not belong to any Quarterly Meeting. but are, im

1727

From Monthly or, other to the yearly-Meeting Directly

immediate Members of the Yearly Meeting. That then Persons Appealing from the Judgment of such Meeting shall give Notice to the said Meeting of their Intentions to appeal within three Months after the Judgment given, And shall Lodge his. her. or their Appeal in the Succeeding Yearly Meeting, if it may Conveniently be done; if not, in the Yearly Meeting that shall next follow after it.

Persons not pursuing these Directions Excluded

And that all Persons Testified against, not pursuing the Directions before given with respect to the Time of giving Notice, and Lodging their Appeals shall be Excluded from any Right of Appealing afterwards.

1728

1728

Method for Choosing the Committee

In Order to put the Directions of last Yearly Meeting into Practice. respecting Appeals. It is now Agreed, That Twelve Cities or Counties as they stand Alphabetically in the Correspondent Book, do Each for themselves name one of their Members, Who are to Constitute that Committee for this Year, Except as before Excepted; And in like Manner next Year, Twelve Cities or Counties, as they do stand next Alphabetically in the Correspondent Book, are Each for themselves to name One of their Members to Constitute that Committee under the same Exception; And so Successively every Year, untill all the Cities and Counties have had their Nomination: which being finished, the Correspondent Book is to be begun again: — And that the Service of this Committee may be as little Burdensome as possible to the Friends to whose Lot it shall happen; It is desired and Directed, That all Appeals which shall be brought from any Person or Place, shall be Lodged with the Clerk of this Meeting for the time being, at the furthest in the Afternoon of the Sixth Day of the Week in the Sitting of the Meeting.

Appeals to be Deliverd on Sixth Day &c

And it is appointed, that at the Rising of the Meeting in the same afternoon on the Sixth Day of

the

1728 the Week, the Clerk for the time being shall read over the Names of the Friends chosen on the Committee of Appeals, and then acquaint them, that he hath One or more Appeals (if such there be) and deliver the Same unto them; Requesting them to Proceed there=on according to the Advice of this Meeting: And that any Seaven of the said Committee so Chosen shall have Power to Act, according to the Direction of ye above mentioned Minute: And it is also the Agree=ment of this Meeting That no Member of any City or County against whom any Appeal may be made, be Admitted a Member of the said Committee.

any seven to Act

1733

1733. This Meeting taking into their Serious Consideration, Some Inconveniencies that may attend the Nominating Persons to hear and Judge of the Fitness or Unfitness of Appeals brought before this Meeting, Do Agree, That for the time to come, No Friend of any County from whence or against whom such Appeals may Come, shall be deemed proper to be Nominated thereto; But that the Meeting Proceed to a Nomination of other Persons in the next Counties And that such Counties as are omitted for the Reason aforesaid be first Called on next Year.

No Friend of any County from or against whom any appeal come, to be Nominated

1736

1736 And Dear Friends, In the Spirit of the Gospel which is Peace on Earth & Goodwill to all Men, Labour to maintain the Discipline of the Church, wherein You will be favoured with Wisdom prudently to Determine Affairs that may come before You, and be instrumental to prevent many troublesome Appeals from com=ing to this Meeting, which tend to prolong it, and give uneasiness to Friends: And We Earnestly desire all Friends who are proper Members of the Society, espe=cially such who are Qualified for service, would be careful to Attend all Meetings for the Discipline of the Church.

to prevent appeals coming

see

Appeals.

See Arbitrations, anno 1720, page. 13.

1745

1745 Whereas it is apprehended that the Minute concerning Appeals, made in 1727, may leave room for some to conclude; That on due Notice being once given by the Appellant or Appellants to the Meeting against which He She or they may Appeal, That He She or They may be at Liberty without any further Notice, to bring his her or their Appeal either to the Yearly Meeting Succeeding, or that which follows; This Meeting orders, to prevent Disputes that may arise on that head, That if any Appellant or Appellants do not bring his her or their Appeals to the Yearly Meeting ensuing, Due Notice once given, that then if He She or They continue their Appeal, Notice shall be repeated in Writing to the Meeting against which he she or They may Appeal, at least three Months preceeding the Yearly Meeting. -

Notice of appeal to be given.

And it is agreed by this Meeting, to prevent It's being troubled with a Repetition of Appeals That no Appeal shall be received a second time which hath been once determined here.

no appeal to be rec:d a Second time.

No. 2: Concerning Arbitrations

1684.

1684.
In what Cases arbitrators are to be Chosen.

Agreed. That the Choosing of Arbitrators is proper in Cases of Differences about a Man's Property; But in Differences about Religious Matters, as Schism &c. The Rule of Christ is to be Observed. If thy Brother shall Trespass against thee &c. Matt. 18: 15. 16. 17. The Church being Judge.

1692

1692
To Choose arbitrators or to Submit to the Choice of the Mo.ly Meet.g

Advised. That in all Cases of Controversy and Differances the Persons concerned therein Either spedily Compose the difference between themselves Or make choice of some Faithful unconcerned Friends to determine the same, and they to stand to their Determination; Or Otherwise if they cannot agree upon the choice, to Submit to the Monthly Meeting's Choice of certain Persons meet to Inspect and determine the Controversy, and to stand to their Award & final Determination thereof. That such Controversies may not be continued to cause a stink and Reproach, for they are a great Shame & Scandal.

All Controversy to be Spedily Ended.

And that Care be taken for the Spedy Ending of all Controversies & Differencies among Friends; And all Friends to take heed of being Parties with one or another for the prolonging thereof. And such Persons as Refuse to Submit to Truths order; or to hear the Church of Christ, are to be disowned & Testified against according to Christs Doctrine on that behalf.

Such as Refuse are to be Disown'd

1693

1693
In a Doubtful Point in Law.

Advised that all Differences happening in Personal or Temporal Occasions be spedily Ended according to the Advice given in our last Yearly Meeting Epistle; And if any Doubtful Point in Law be in the Case, then both Parties may Advise with some well knowing in the Law; for

1693 For if any Lust to be Contentious we have no such custom in the Churches of Christ. —

1696

1696. Not to Sue another at Law. . Advised. That no Friend shall go from the Order of Truth, and former Advice, to Sue one another at Law; But by themselves or by Reference, that all Differences among Friends be Speedily Ended, and not prolonged or Delayed. .

And Dear Friends, Shun all occasions of Strife & Discord, and take care to make a speedy End of all Differences that are or may happen among yourselves, as hath been often advised, and that according to the holy Apostle's Doctrine; Read 1. Cor: 6. v. 1 to 8.

1697.

1697. Whereas. It sometimes happeneth, to the hurt of Truth, and grief of many Friends, that Differences do arise amongst some Professing Truth about Outward things. It is therefore by this Meeting thought Convenient and Advised, That when any Friend or Friends shall hear of any such Difference betwixt any Friends in that Meeting to which they do belong, That they forthwith Speak to and Tenderly Advise the Persons between whom the Difference is, to make a Speedy End thereof; And if that Friend or Friends do not Comply with their Advice, That then they take to them One or two Friends more, And again Exhort them to End their Difference; And if they or either of them refuse, then to let them know that it is the Advice & Counsel of Friends, that they should Each Choose an Equal Number of Indifferent Impartial & Judicious Friends to hear & Speedily Determine the same, and that they do bind themselves to stand to their Award and Determination, Or the Award & Determination of the major part of them, that shall be made & signed by the arbitrators, Or the Award & Arbitration made and Signed by the Umpire if there be one agreed unto.

Friends between when any Difference happens, to be Advised to Choose Arbitrators

Also

1697.

Such as refuse to End their Differences, or to refer them, are to be dealt with.

Also this Meeting doth Advise that if any Person professing the Truth among us, and Esteemed a Friend shall refuse Speedily to End the Difference, or Refer it as before Advised, Complaint be made of that Person or Persons unto the Monthly Meeting to which he doth belong: And if after Admonition He shall refuse so to Refer his Case, that then the Meeting Do Testifie against such a Person, And Disown him to be of our Society; until he shall Comply with the equial Methods & agreements of our Society: And by such his Compliance doth declare that He is for Peace, & doth seek and desire it: And when any Person so Refusing is Testified against by the Meeting and Disowned, the other Person may have his Liberty to seek his Remedy against him at Law.

The Person Disowned may be Sued at Law.

Arbitrators not to Decline acting after they have accepted it.

And if any Friends that shall be Chosen to hear and Determine any such Difference as aforesaid, after they have accepted thereof, and the Parties Differing are become bound to Stand to their Determination, shall decline & Refuse to stand & Act as Arbitrators, that then such Person or Persons so refusing, be required to give the Reasons of their Refusal unto the Monthly Meeting to which they belong, and if that Meeting shall not Esteem those Reasons sufficient Justly to Excuse them, then the Meeting to Press them to Stand to what they have Excepted.

Continuing to Decline Standing to be Testified against

And if after such Admonition, They shall continue to Refuse to Stand as Arbitrators, That then the Meeting do Testify against them or either of them, as such as are not Subject to the Just Rules of our Society, neither ought to be admited thereunto, untill he or they Condemn and Retract the Same.

To avoid Choosing ministers for Arbitrators

And it is the Advice of this Meeting that Persons Differing about outward Things, Do as little as may be trouble publick Ministring Friends with being Arbitrators in such Cases.

And that all Persons differing be Exhorted by the Monthly Meeting to which they belong, when their Cases are

1697

all Persons to perform the Award made.

are refered, and Judgment & Award made Signed and given thereupon as aforesaid, to stand to and perform the said Award, Which they have bound themselves to perform: And if any shall refuse so to do, that then the Monthly Meeting to which such Person doth belong, upon Notice thereof to them given, shall Admonish him thereunto, and if after Admonition he persist to refuse, then the Meeting to Testify against him as before.

No Friend to Sue another at Law

To Conclude, It is the Sence and Judgment of this Meeting, That if any Person Professing Truth shall Arrest, Sue, or Implead at Law, any other Person Professing Truth, before he hath Proceeded in the Methods herein before recommended, That such Person doth therein Depart from the Principle of Truth, and the known way thereof, And Acts contrary thereunto, And ought to be Dealt with by the Meeting he belongs to therefore, And if he shall not give Satisfaction to the Meeting for such his Disorderly Proceeding by Condemning it & himself therein, that then he be Disowned by the Meeting therefore.

1705

1705 Meetings to take Care that Differences be Speedily Ended.

If any Difference is Depending or shall arise between any Persons Professing Truth Amongst us, It is Advised and Desired that Effectual Care in the Wisdom of God, may be Taken, by Friends of the Meeting or Meetings to which such Persons belong, to put a full and Speedy End thereto, as has been formerly Advised, particularly in the Year 1697.

1720.

1720 minute of 1697 Explained.

The Report of the Friends appointed on the Minute of 1697 Received with an Explanation; which was several times Read, and finally accepted by the Meeting.

The

1720

The Report and Explanation aforesaid, are as followeth.

It is the Since and Judgment of this Committee. that the Minute of 1697. relating to Arbitrations is Consistent with the Practice of our Antient Friends, and very Fit for a General Rule for the Procedure of Friends on such Occasions.

The Report.

Yet since general Rules commonly Admit of Exceptions or Explanations, and divers Friends having Objected some Particular Cases wherein they Apprehend Difficulties may arise (which yet we Apprehend is sufficiently provided for by the Discretionary Power vested in the respective Monthly & Quarterly Meetings) Yet in Condescention to those Friends, we declare, That as no Persons ought to be Disowned without Tender Consideration of every Circumstance attending such Cases; And due Admonition by the Monthly Meetings to the Parties concerned, So we Tenderly Advise that the several Meetings Proceed with the utmost Circumspection therein.

None to be Disowned without Tender Consideration of the Circumstance

And that if any Person so denied by any Monthly Meeting shall apprehend He is not Justly dealt with, He hath his Liberty, as in all other Cases amongst us to appeal to the Quarterly Meeting; who after through Examination of the Case and all the Circumstances and Proceedure Attending it, Shall proceed to Confirm or Reverse the Same, as they in the Fear & Wisdom of God shall see Cause.

Liberty to appeal

And Whereas it sometimes so happens that Persons under our Profession have proved so base & unworthy, as when they have run themselves into Debt, to Endeavour fraudently & hastily to Remove themselves or their Effects, to prevent Justice; Whereby those Creditors who are Friends have been Deprived of an Opportunity of the Common Method of Friends Specified in the minute aforesaid; It is hereby Declared that the Last

Paragraph

1720 Paragraph of the said Minute which Prohibits Friends to Sue or Arrest one another &c. Is not intended to prevent such Evil Persons, in those practices, from being Dealt with by a Legal Proceſs, as the Nature of the Case may require; of which Circumſtances the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings are the Proper Judges. So it is not to be Doubted but that they will do Justice to the Parties Concerned therein..

Whereas upon the Diſsatisfaction of several Friends with some parts of the Minute of this Meeting Anno. 1697 relating to Arbitrations of Differences about Outward things, there were some Friends Appointed to Read Hear & Consider the said Minute and ye Diſsatisfaction therewith and make report, and accordingly the greater part of the Friends appointed for that Service did bring in their Report, which being Read did not prove so Generally to the satisfaction of Friends as could have been Deſired: Now this Meeting being fervently desirous, That the Universal peace of the Church, and every Sincere Member thereof may as much as poſsible be preserved, and all occation of Uneaſineſs as much as may be removed, Doth accept & Receive the report above mentioned, with this further Explanation.

That so much of the Minute of 1697 before mentioned, as doth Relate simply to the Entering into Bonds, and so far as Arbitrations may be refused on account of Disputes & Questions in Law, relating to Executors or Trustees; In both these Cases, that there be a Particular and Special Regard had to the nature & Circumſtances of things; It not being either now, nor at the time of making the said Minute, the Intent of this Meeting to Lay any Unwarrantable Burthen upon any Brother, nor upon the Church of God.

Advised, That due Care be taken that all

1720 Offences, Trespasses and Differances be Spedily Ended and composed in God's Wisdom according to Gospel order among us, either by mutual forgiveness, Christian Councel, or Just Arbitration, as the Case may Require & safely admit or allow; And the Choice of Arbitrators and Umpires, be of such just impartial Men as neither party can Justly except against, but both agree to their Choice.

1724

1724 Speedy Ending of Difference by Prudent and Just Arbitrations again Recommended.

1725

1725 Former Advice hath by this Meeting been Given with regard to the Honour of God, and his Truth, that the Religious Reputation of our Society might be preserved from Blemish and all Just occasion of Scandal; and which we now again earnestly Press & Desire, That all Friends avoid as much as possible, Occasions of Difference One with another; But if notwithstanding such care any Difference shall Happen to arise that then the Friends of that Meeting in the Compass whereof any such shall happen, take timely care to put an End thereunto by Advising & Exhorting those between whom Difference may happen, to Refer the matter of their Difference to Impartial and Proper Arbitrators, which may be a very likely means to avoid the Scandal of going to Law one with another and to Shew forth to the World that we Love one another which is a Distinguishing mark of being Christs Disciples.

all Occasions of Difference to be avoided

Friends to put an End to Difference

To avoid the Scandal of going to Law

1737

1737 And we do again remind You, That Friends may be every where careful to get all Differences about Outward things Spedily Composed either between themselves, or by Arbitrators, without troubling Monthly or Quarterly Meeting with such Affairs.

And it would be well that Friends were at

Tim

Arbitrations

1737 Times ready to submit Differences, even with Persons not of our Perswation to Arbitrators. rather than Contend at Law.

1744.

1744 See Law, Page, 138.

Arbitrations

1772 As to the consistency of the members of our society Joining themselves with those called Freemaſons, we have Deliberated upon and according to our present judgment, think it is not consistant with our religious profeſsion, and adviſe that Quarterly and monthly meetings, diſsuade their members therefrom, and if any continue therein or join therewith contrary to the advice herein contained, that they be dealt with as such, who refuse the advice of Friends.

No. 3 Concerning Books.

1672.

1672 a Committee to Correct Books — A Committee of Ten Friends appointed to see that Books be Carefully Corrected: And that None be Printed but by Friends Order.

The Printer to give three or more of them Notice when any Book is to be Printed.

That no Old Books be sent to the Counties unsent for.

That no Second Edition be Printed without Order

That the Printer send those ordered to the Counties before any be sent abroad.

1673

1673 se. 1698. — Agreed. That the Quarterly Meetings return the Printer his money Once a Quarter, for his further Encouragement & aſsistance to Carry on his Buſineſs.

1674

1674 — Agreed. That whatever Book is for time to come writ by any Friend in Scotland, and Printed here, They shall take off four Hundred of each Book toward Defraying the Charge of Printing them.

1679

1679 to be given by the meeting for Sufferings p. 26: 28: 29: — Books to be Deliver'd to the King and his Council the Parliament & other Persons, Magistrates and Governors within this Nation, as also in Foreign Parts beyond the Seas, as the Meeting for Sufferings shall from time to time direct and Appoint.

p. 26. & p 28: 1706 — Agreed that the Meeting for Sufferings for the time being, Do for the Future take care to the Inspecting Ordering and Regulating the Preſs and Printing of Books: — And in whatever matter relating to Printing of Books the Country Friends find themselves Agrieved that they write to the said Meeting who are to Redreſs the same.

1680

Books

1680

1680 Agreed that the matter of Books and Printing and method of Sending them as well within this Nation as Foreign Parts, be wholly Left & refered to the Meeting for Sufferings in London. p. 25.

1691

1691 This Meeting Agrees. For the taking off & Spreading Friends Books for the Service of Truth, That such a Number of Friends Books, as shall be hereafter Printed by their Approbation (exceping Collections of Books) be taken off by Each Quarterly Meeting, as will only amount to Two Books of a sort to Each Monthly meeting, Provided the two Books do not both exceed one Shilling in Price; and if any one Book be above Six pence Price, then but one of that sort to each Monthly Meeting; who may send for as many more as they have Occasion for, or Desire.

Two of a sort at 6d Each & one of a sort above to Each mo.ly meeting. See p. 27

We understand there are about One Hundred and Fifty one Monthly Meetings in England & Wales. — And that the said Books be sent by the several Correspondents in London, or by their order to the Correspondents of each County who are Desired to send up the money for the Books when receiv'd, to the Friends that are Correspondents in London; And to be Diligent in spreading Friends Books for Truths Service.

151 mo.ly meetings

1692

1692 Agreed, That those that Print for Friends deliver to the Meeting for Sufferings for the several Correspondents of the Counties in England & Wales, Such a number of Books as was agreed unto Last Meeting within one month after Printed; which are Two of a sort for each Monthly Meeting not exceeding Six pence per Book, and one of a sort above Six pence pr Book.

see 1695

and

1692

Books to be kept in Each Quarterly & mo.ly meeting: see 1695

And it is Advised by the Meeting, That one Book at least of a Sort that shall be Printed, except Collections, be kept in Each Monthly or Quarterly Meeting, for the Service of Friends and Truth, as there shall be Occasion for the Future: And this is to be recommended to the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings.

1695

1695

Two of a Sort under 2/6 one of a sort above to Each mo.ly meeting see 1697.

This Meeting agrees, That it may be recommended from this Meeting to Each Monthly Meeting in the Counties to take off Two Books of a sort newly Printed, to Each Monthly Meeting, under two shillings and Sixpence, for one Year from this time, and one to a Meeting that is above; and that they be sent into the Counties Quarterly, about two Weeks before Each Quarter Day, by those Printers that Print them: And that one Book of a sort be kept in each Quarterly Meeting in the Several Counties.

1697

1697

Spreading Friends Book

Friends in the Several Counties in England are desired to be Diligent to spread Friends Books, which are answers to Adversaries, and to get them Exposed to publick, where Adversaries Books are sold, that the Service of them may be answered; And the Printers are to be spoken to, to send down the Books in due time, and not delay them till the Service be partly over.

Two of a sort not Exceeding 2/ ℘ Book

This Meeting understanding that the Minute of 1695 expired in 1696 with respect to Printed Books of high Price; It's Desired that all Books that are writ by such that are in Unity with Friends that was then agreed to, be accepted by the Monthly Meetings to which they are sent. And that Each Monthly Meeting for the future do accept of two Books of a sort that do not Exceed Two Shillings ℘ Book, till this Meeting doth order otherwise.

1698.

1698

1698 Printers accounts to be Cleared yearly.

This Meeting adviseth, That the Bookseller's Accounts be Cleared Yearly of such Books they send, and Friends approve of; And that Each Quarterly Meeting preceeding the Yearly Meeting, give directions to such Members they make Choice of to attend the Yearly Meeting, to see it done; And the Printers to give timely Notice thereof to Each Quarterly Meeting preceeding the Yearly Meeting.

1702

1702 Friends to read over Books in answer to adversaries

Agreed to Recommend it to the Quarterly & monthly Meetings in the several Counties, to appoint some Judicious Friends to Read over such Books that are published in Vindication of Truth and the Doctrine of Friends against Adversaries in order that they may both better understand the controversies, and be prepared to vindicate the Doctrine of Friends, and obviate Objections.

1706

1706 Morning meeting to acquaint the Meetg for sufferings

Agreed, That when the Morning Meeting of Ministring Friends do see cause or necessity for to Dispose of Books in truth's Service Gratis or freely, That they acquaint the Meeting for Sufferings therewith, both as to the Quantity and Charge, for their Compliance, before disposed of for that Service.

1709

1709 North Brittain

Agreed, That North Brittain be desired to send up an Account to the Meeting for Suffering's, how many monthly Meetings they have; and it's proposed. That they take off Two Books of a sort for each monthly Meeting.

1710

1710 This Meeting Desires the Meeting for Sufferings to take care that the several Quarterly Meetings

in

1710 In England and Wales do take off and Pay for
such Friends Books sent Pursuant to the Yearly
p. 27:28: Meetings repeated Agreement.

1732

1732 It is Agreed, That the Meeting for Sufferings
do Distribute in such manner; and to such parts
see 1679: 1680. of the World, as they think Proper; the Writings
of such Friends as have been published by the Consent
of the Morning Meeting.

1735

1735 The Meeting for Sufferings have Invested John Davis,
Samuel Arnold, Richard How and Joseph Ollive, with
Coppies of Book. the Right of such Coppies of Friends Books as now
are; or shall hereafter be Printed for the use of this
Meeting; But this Meeting desires that the Meeting
for Sufferings do take care, that the said Friends may
not have it in their Power to possess the said Coppies,
but only in Trust for this Meeting.

No 4 Concerning Certificates.

1694

1694 To have Certificate on Removing into Ireland.

Desired, that all Friends who Remove from any Part of England or Wales into Ireland, may have Certificates from their respective Monthly Meetings to which they belong, that They may be informed of what repute they are as to Truth and Friends; And also that no unnecessary and undue Charge be brought upon Friends there.

or from one mon^th or Quarterly meeting to another.

Friends Removing from the Compass of One Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to another to have Certificates. See peer. page 235. 236. 238. 240. 241. 243.

1737 And See Removals & Settlements. in 1737 p: 287. 288: 290:

Friends that Travel in the Work of the ministry, to have Certificates. See Preachers. p: 253. 254. 256.

1745

1745 See Preachers. page, 259.

1748.

1748 See Marriage page 155.

1772

1772 See Preachers. page 260 to have Certificates

1772

1772 See Marriage page 156 Certificate to be produced

Boundaries

1762 This meeting approves of Aquishnet River to be the boundaries between Rhode Iſland Quarterly-meeting and Sandwich Quarterly-meeting, agreeable to their request.—

No. 5 Concerning Children.

1688:

1688 We do Entreat and Desire you all, our dear Friends, Brethren and Sisters, that are Parents and Governors of Families, That ye diligently lay to heart your Work and Calling in your Generation for the Lord, and the Charge committed to You, not only in becoming good Examples to the younger Sort, but also to use your Power in your own Families, in the Education of your Children and Servants in Modesty, Sobriety, and in the Fear of God, Curbing the Extravagant humour in the Young Ones when it doth appear, and not to Indulge it and allow of it; For you are set in your Families as Judges for God, and it is you that must give an accout of the Power commited to You: And when you see a Libertine and wanton Spirit appear in your Children and Servants, that lusteth after the vain Customs and Fashions of the World, either in Dressing, Habits or outward Adornings, and Craves your Assistance and Allowance, without which it cannot get forward while they are under your Government: Oh; then Look to yourselves, and Discharge your Trust for God, and for the good of their Souls, Exhorting in Meekness and Commanding in Wisdom, that so you may Minister and Reach to the Witness, and help them over their Temptations, in the Authority of Gods Power; And when they feel themselves helped and Delivered, their Souls will Bless God for you, and you will reap the Comfort of your Labour.

Parents to be good Examples to Children
p: 40. 41. 44: 46. 48.

not to Indulge them

1689

1689 And, Dear Friends, For the Lords Sake Exercise your Christian care for the Education of your Children in the Fear of God, and Plainness & Simplicity of the Truth both in Language and Habits.

1690

Children

1690

1690 This Meeting Adviseth, That Friends may be careful not to train up their Children in the Worlds Ways. Names of Days & Months & Language & Fashions And that Friends may be Careful of Friends Children to Provide School-Masters & Mistresses that are Friends where they are capable, and not to send them to the Worlds Schools, to Corrupt them by Learning heathen Authors, and the names of their gods; But to take ~~that~~ care that they may Train them up in the Language of Truth, and that Plainness which becomes the Truth, and to be good Examples to them and not to say you to their Child; Nor Suffer their Substance to be Bestowed on their Children to furnish them with such things that are not becoming our Profession.

Not to train them up in the World Ways &c.

Put them to School-masters who are Friends.

p. 39. 41.

And, Dear Friends, It is our Christian and earnest Advice & Counsel to all Friends concerned so far as they are able or may be capable, to provide School-Masters and Mistresses, who are faithful Friends, to teach and instruct their Children, and not to send them to such Schools where they are taught the Corrupt ways, Manners Fashions, & Language of the World, and of the Heathen in their Authors; And names of the Heathenish gods & goddesses, tending greatly to corrupt and alienate the minds of Children into an averseness or Opposition against the Truth and the Simplicity of it; But take care that you train up your Children in the good Nurture Admonition and Fear of the Lord, In that Plainness and Language which becomes Truth And Parents Masters &c to be good Examples to them in a Sober and Godly Conversation and Plainness of Speech: not to use the Word you or ye to a Child or Servant &c; Nor Suffer your Substance to be Bestowed on your Children to furnish them with such things as tend to Pride, and to lift them up

To Provide School Masters & Mistresses who are friends

p. 39. 41.

in

1690 in Vanity, or affect them with the vain Fashions of the World.

1691

1691 That Friends be Examplary to their Children in
Plainness of Language Habit & Deportment; and
p:39·40 train them up therein; that Modesty & Sobriety may
to be traind be Countenanced; and the Fear of the Lord take place
up in and increase among them. See more in the same
plainness &c. Printed Epistle. —

See Plainness, page 223.

1692.

1692 Being Sensible how incident Youth is to be Corrupted, and how liable to Corrupt & hurt one another by evil Example and Liberty; It is earnestly requested That all Parents among Friends take all Godly & Christian Care in the Education of their Children, and be good Examples to them, and not to allow them in any thing that may gratify a vain Mind, in immodest Apparrel or foolish Garbs, or other Extravagancies tending to their Hurt, & the reproach of our holy Profession, and incurring God's Displeasure & Judgment, which Stand against the Pride of Life & Haughtiness; But Sincerely to use their best Endeavours to train them up in the Nurture & Admonition of the Lord, in Sobriety, Modesty, & Plainness of Apparel Language & Conversation, as becometh our holy Profession and Christian Religion.

1696

1696 - Agreed, That it be recommended to Friends to
be very careful in the Education of their Children, &
p.39·40. to see that it be as much as Possible by Honest Friends
That while Children are getting Learning by Such that

Are

1696 are not Friends. They are often hurt by having such things instilled, or like Seed dropt into them, that have taken Root to the hurt of Children, and should therefore be prevented.

to be trained up in Truth's way with a Commendable Education

We Recommend to You that are Parents the Plainness & holy Discipline of the Truth among your Children. That they may be Trained up in Truths way, and with a commendable Education according to your abilities; That a Peculiar People we may be in the Life of Righteousness in our Generation, diligently improving that good Understanding, and those Heavenly Gifts the Lord hath endued you with, and made You Stewards of, to the Honour of him that hath called you, and the Good & Comfort one of another.

1697:

1697 to be put Apprentices to Friends

It being under Consideration, how Friends Children might be Disposed of that are trained up in the way of Truth, and fit to be put forth Apprentices; It's the Advice & Counsel of Friends that Special Care be taken to put them Apprentices to Honest Friends, that they may be preserved in the way of Truth.

1700 1701 — 1700 & 1701 } See Plainness. p. 223.

1703 — See 1703. in page: 50.

1704:

1704 timely to Restrain p. 39. 40. 41. 48.

And Parents are again reminded to Continue their Godly Care, and Exercise their just and due Authority & Command over their Children timely to Restrain them from the Worlds Corruptions & Extravagancies, both in Habit and Language Behaviour & Conversation, that they may keep the Way of the Lord, and walk uprightly therein.

1706

Children

1706

1706 Advised. to keep Children out of the vain & foolish
Fashions and ways of the World. and in Plainneſs
of Language, Habit & Behaviour.

1709

Advised. That all Heads of Families, and especially
1709 such who are Elders in the Church of Christ, be all dili-
heads of -gent & careful to watch over the Young Generation
Families that Sobriety Plainneſs & Virtue may be Encouraged
& Elders and promoted, and Examplarily recommended by you
to watch to them. That the Liberty too many of our Youth
over the take in following the Fashions & Customs of the
young World, which tend to the Dishonour & Reproach of
&c the Testimony of the Bleſsed Truth, may be discourag'd
p. 41 and such are found in the same, Dealt with in the
to be dealt Fear Wisdom & Love of God. that they may be Won,
with and brought into humility and Subjection to the Lord
and his Truth —— More in the same Epistle.
See Plainneſs p. 224.

1710

1710 The Lord knows, We would not have any of Our
Caution Dear Friends Children, who are natural Branches
against of a good Stock, Degenerate from that good Seed and
Degeneracy tender Plant that he has sown & planted in them.
nor Corrupted from Truth's Simplicity or Innocency,
by the Society or ill Examples of any other Children;
Which Friends who are Parents should take timely
Care to prevent.

1715

That Our Children may be preserved from
1715 the Wiles of Satan, as much as in us Lies. Let a Godly
Parents Care and Concern be upon the minds of all Parents
to watch to watch over them, with Supplications to the Lord
over that they may not be Drawn away from the Innocency
Children Simplicity & Plainneſs of the way of Truth; and labour
in a Sence of Truth to reach the witneſs in them
& that they may feel in their own Spirits, a Degree
Labour of Fear & Reverence towards God and Instruct
with them them;

1715 them to follow his Counsel, and Obey his Voice,
as the Tribes of Israel were required of God,
to Teach his Precepts diligently unto their Children
P. 47. Deut. 6. v. 7. And thou shalt teach them diligently
unto thy Children, and thou shalt talk
of them when thou sittest in thine House, and
when thou Walkest by the Way, and when thou
liest down, and when thou risest up. ——
So be you concerned to acquaint them how the Lord
Led you from one degree of Faithfulness to another
in a Denial of the Worlds Corrupt Ways, Language and
Customs; which while we in Disobedience to Him
walked in, we could not Enjoy true Peace; But as
We bore the Cross, and bowed to his Will, we had
an Evidence of acceptance with him: and be Careful
that none of you by a Neglect herein become
Examples unto them to Depart from the Scripture
Language, wherein is true Propriety of
Speech

1717

As touching the Education of Friends Children
1717 for which this Meeting hath often found a Concern
we think it our Duty to recommend unto you
the Necessity that there is of a Care in preserving
them in Plainness of Speech and Habit Suitable to
our holy Profession: And also that no Opportunity
be Omitted, nor any Endeavours wanting to Instruct
them in the Principles of Truth which we profess,
that thereby they being Sensible of the Operation
thereof in themselves, may find, not only their
Spirits Softned & tendred, fit to receive the Impressions
of the divine Image, but may also from thence
find themselves under a Necessity to appear clear in
the several Branches of our Christian Testimony;
And as this will be most beneficial to them being
the Fruits of Conviction, so it is the most Effectual
way of Propogating the same throughout the Churches
of Christ: And there being times and Seasons
wherein their Spirits are more than at others

Disposed

1717 disposed to have those things impressed upon them, so We desire that all Parents and others concerned in the Oversight of Youth, might wait in the Fear of God, to know themselves divinely Qualified for that Service, that in his Wisdom they may make use of every such opportunity, which the Lord shall put into their hands. — And we hereby Warn and Advise Friends in all Places to flee every Appearance of Evil, and keep out of Pride and following the vain fashions & Customs of the World, as Recommended in the Epistle 1715.

1723

1723 What Books &c. not to be allowed. Advised & Exhorted, That all Parents, Masters and Mistresses of Families, and Guardians of Minors that they prevent, as much as in them lies, their Children, Servants, and Youth under their respective Care & Tuition, from the having or reading Books or Papers, that have any tendency to prejudice the Profession of the Christian Religion, to Create in them the Least Doubt or Question concerning the truth of the holy Scriptures, Or those necessary and Saving Truths declared in them, Lest their infant & feeble minds should be poisoned thereby and a Foundation laid for the greatest Evils.

1724

1724 The Circumstances of our Youth having been again under our Consideration, We Judge it necessary to observe, That the undue Liberty too many of them take, both in their Conversation one with another, as well as with those not of our Persuasion, hath been cause of Grief to know and hear. Wherefore We tenderly recommend to all Parents & such as may have Care of Children, that they do as far as in them lies, carefully Inspect and narrowly Enquire into the manner of their Conversation; that where

to Inspect their Conversation

Counsel

1724 Counsel or Reproof may be wanting, it may in the Spirit of Love, and in Sound Judgment be given.

1725

1725

To Labour for an Inheritance in ye Truth rather than in this World. p. 49.

And you who are Parents of Children. Labour fervently in the Spirit, with Secret Supplication unto the Lord, that He may give them an Inheritance in the Truth, wherein they may be Enabled to stand in their Generation after You, to his Praise & Glory, rather than Labour to get great Inheritances for them in this World; which has proved a Snare and Temptation to Some to shun the Cross, and Embrace the Glory of this present World; But that those to whom God hath given Riches, may take the Apostles Advice, "That they be not high minded, but fear, & Trust not in uncertain Riches, but therewith be Rich in Good Works, willing to Communicate, ready to Distribute." And therein be a good Example to their Children

1 Tim. 6:17.

1729

1729

Company

It ought to be the great Care & Concern of Parents as they Vallue the Welfare of their Children and posterity, and others who have Youth under their Care, that they Endeavour by their Example, as well as Precept, to keep them from bad Company, for many have found by sad Experience, the Truth of that saying of the Apostle. Evil Communications doth corrupt good manners. — and see Scriptures p. 217.

1731

1731

Advice to Parents & Guardians concerning Education

In as much as We have a Large Body of Youth growing up, the Offspring of Friends, these call for our special Care & Concern, that they may be preserved in the way of Truth, in which our fore fathers walked; And in order thereto, We tenderly recommend to all Parents and Guardians, First, that they take heed to themselves, that their own Spirits be rightly Seasoned & directed for the help

and

1731 and good Government of their Children, and then that they
have a Constant Watchful Eye in Love over them, for
their Good, and keep them as much as possible within their
Notice & Observation, for this We are sensible of, that the Miscarriages
of Youth have very much preceeded from their
being imprudently Indulged or left to themselves, by
which means they become exposed to the Danger of Evil
Examples on the one hand and vicious Corrupt Principles
on the other, with which the World too much abounds.
And therefore We earnestly & tenderly Advise all Parents
and Guardians, to be watchfully concerned in this respect;
And that they take all proper Occasions both by Example
& Instruction to help their Children: And that
Mothers of Children as well as Fathers, as they have frequently
the best Opportunities, would take particular Care to Instruct
them in the Knowledge of Religion and the holy
Scriptures; because it has been found by Experience
that good Impressions early made on the tender minds
of Children, have proved lasting Means of preserving
them in a Religious Life & Conversation: This Practice
was enjoined strongly upon the People of Israel by
p. 44. Moses and Joshua the Servants of the Lord, who
required them to Read or Repeat the Law to their
Children: And the Apostle Paul takes notice of Timothy's
being well Instructed in the holy Scriptures from a Child,
and of the unfeigned Faith which dwelt in Grandmother
Lois, and his Mother Eunice; 2 Tim: 1: 5: who no doubt had
a Religious Care of his Education.

But when Parents or Guardians are deficient in
monthly meetings to stir up parents to this Duty such their Care, We recommend Monthly Meetings, that
they stir them up thereto, either by visiting them in their
Families, or in such manner, as in the Wisdom of God
they may see meet; That so the Doctrines of the Gospel
and a conversation agreeable thereunto may be maintained
unto all Generations.

1732

See Scriptures. p. 318 1733

1732

Children

1733. 1733. See Scriptures page 319.
1734. 1734. See the same p. 319.
1735. 1735. See Plainneſs p. 228.
and See Scriptures p. 320.

1736.

1736. Ano. Dear Friends, You who have Children
under your Care or Tuition We beseech You to Accustom
Train them up in the way of the Croſs — them early to the Reading of the holy Scriptures, &
to train them up in the way of the Croſs as soon as they
are capable of receiving impreſsions of Good & Evil:
That Parents be careful how they Indulge them
in any thing that has an evil Tendency, Endea-
not to Indulge but Restrain them — vouring to restrain them from every hurtful thing
which their natural Inclinations may lead them to
desire after; This we think is the Indispensible
p. 39 Duty of all Parents, and we cannot see how they can
answer the Omiſsion of it in the Sight of God; for such
a neglect too often Occasions ill habits, which after-
wards are not to be restrained without great Dif-
ficulty, if at all. We also earnestly Entreat our
Young Friends, with all readineſs of mind to
Receive, and give place to the Labour of Love &
Youth Entreated to Receive admonition — wholesome Admonitions bestowed upon them by their
Parents & others for their benefit & Instruction;
And Carefully to avoid all Evil Company which Cor-
rupts good manners, and Leads into disorders and
Extravagancies; And that the Endeavours of Parents
p. 39. 40. 41 44. 46. may be Crowned with Succeſs, It behoveth them to
Enforce their Advice by a Suitable Practice, and an
Examplary walking in all Holineſs and Godlineſs
of Conversation.

1737

1737 Ano. Dear Friends, It has been the Concern of
this our Annual Meeting from the Relation and
hopes given of Truths Spreading in Foreign Coun-
tries -

1737 Countries. That Friends who are of Abilities, and have the Prosperity of Truth at Heart, would in the Education of their Children, take care as sutable Oppertunities and Occasions may offer. to let them be Instructed in some Modern Tongue, as French, High & Low Dutch, Danish &c — that so when they are grown up. They themselves if Traders to Forreign Countries may reap the benefit thereof, and as it shall Please the Lord to dispose and incline them, may be of Service to the Church.

See Families. page 118.

1751

1751 It has been Matter of Affliction to this Meeting
to understand by the Accounts received from divers
Counties, that notwithstanding the repeated Exhorta-
-tions, and tender Councel given forth by this Meeting
to Parents and Others Concerned for Youth, and that
ought to be properly Engaged for their due Education
and the forming their Tender minds to the Exercise
of Piety & Religion; yet too great a Deficiency ap-
-pears in that important Duty: Under a preſsing
Concern of mind for the revival of so neceſsary a care,
early enjoined the Chosen People of God, i:e: the Israel-
-lites, and the concern of the Faithful in every Age;
We Communicate this Additional Counsel and Intreat
them to Consider. That there Ought to be proper Limi-
p: 46. -tations aſsigned to their Anxiety after this World —
And an hearty Engagement to seek Primarily
after that Bleſsing that maketh truly Rich and brings
no sorrow with it: The Neglect of this weighty Obli-
-gation has produced fatal Effects to the Youth in
many places; The Life of Religion being Lost by
the Parents, they have been disabled from Instructing
their Children, and the most excellent part of
that near Relation has been Intirely lost. Their
minds bent to the World, and devoted to its pursuits, has
Centerd them in the Acquisition of Earthly Poſseſsions
as —

1751 as their principal and only Good; And a Jealous Righteous God has often punished such in themselves or Offspring, as he did the People of old. Haggai 1. Ye looked for much and Lo, it came to little, and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon, Why? Saith the Lord of Hosts — Because of mine House that is waste, and ye run every Man into his own house.

There is great reason to hope a Blessing would attend the Honest Endeavours of Parents that the minds of Youth thus seasoned, they might be render'd useful in our Zion, and be brought up in Service according to the will of God.

And Dearly beloved Youth in an Humble Sence of the continued Visitations of the Fathers Love and Experience of their blessed Effects, we intreat you by the Mercies of God, Receive its holy Impressions, Submit to its Discipline. This will preserve you from the Deplorable Effect of Satans Transformations, Inspire you with holy Resolutions and support to maintain them, in all Godly Conversation, and purity of Faith & Life, adorning the Doctrine of the Gospel by a Blameless demeanor; True peace will thus flow as a River in your own minds, and the Fruits of the Tree of Righteousness brought forth to your Inexpressible Consolation in Christ, the Revival of Zions Beauty, the Rebuilding her Desolations, that by and through you She may yet appear Beautiful to the Sincere hearted, but to her Enimies terrible as an Army with Banners.

1703

1703 This is omitted in the proper Place

Advised That all Parents be watchfull over their Children and Careful not to Suffer them to get up into Pride & Excess, but to keep them to that Decen

1703 decent Plainness which becomes the People of God. That the Sin of the Children may not lie upon the Parents, nor they be Exposed to Ruin by the Parents Neglect.

Bred up to usefull Employm^ts. And that Friends of all Degrees take due Care to breed up their Children in some useful and Necessary Employments, that they may not spend their Precious Time in Idleness, which is of evil Example & tends much to their hurt.

No 6: Concerning Conversation.

1675

1675 to keep to the Testimony of Truth — It is much upon us to put Friends in Remembrance, to keep to the antient Testimony Truth begat in our Hearts in the begining against the Spirit of this World. for which many have Suffered cruell Mockings, Beatings, Stonings &c, Particularly as to the Corrupt Fashions, Dealings & Language of the World, their Over-reachings, and vain Jestings, that the Cross of Christ in all Things may be kept to, which preserves Friends Blameless. And honours the Lords Name and Truth in the Earth.

1676

1676 See Covetousness page 85.

1688

1688 Advised, That Friends every where be put in mind to keep under the Leadings & Guidance of the Spirit of Truth, in their outward Habits & Fashions thereof; not Suffering the Spirit of the World to get over them, in a Lust to be like unto them in things useless and superfluous, Lest it prevail upon them by giving a little way to it, till it lead them from the Simplicity and Plainness that becomes the Gospel, and so from one vain liberty to another, till they come to lose the Blessed Liberty that is in Christ, into which they were in measure Redeemed, and fall back into the Bondage of the Worlds Spirit and grow up into the Liberty of the Flesh with the Lust and Concupiscence thereof, and so Lose both their Name & Place in the Truth as too many have done.

1691

1691

1691
To Watch against the Spirit of ye World

Adviſed in Gods holy Fear to watch against, and keep out the Spirit and Corrupt Friendship of the World, and no Fellowship may be held or had with the unfruitful works of Darkneſs, nor therein with the Workers thereof.

avoid fre: quening — Taverns

And to avoid unneceſsary frequenting Taverns, Alehouses, all Looseneſs, Exceſs, and unprofitable and Idle Discourses, Mispending their Precious Time & Subſtance, to the Dishonour of Truth, and Scandal of our holy Profeſsion. And See Plainneſs, page. 223.

1712

1712

See Plainneſs, page, 225

1725

1725
Watch over our own Spirits

Let us watch Diligently over our own Spirits to See that we are Conformable to the Spirit of Truth, whereby our Behaviour and Conversation may be such as becomes Godlineſs, and may adorn the Doctrine of Christ Jesus our Lord, who mercifully hath Called us to be a People faithful in bearing the Croſs and despising the Shame, and Chearfully bearing Our Testimony to the great Truths of the Christian Religion which he hath Revealed, and against every Appearance of Antichrist and Wickedneſs.

1731

1731
Caution to be Careful of their Conver=sation at Inns &c.

It is the Care and Concern of this Meeting to recom=mend unto all Friends resorting to any of our Annual Aſsemblies, either in this City or Elsewhere, to be very Careful at their Inns or other Places where they may Lodge or Converse, to be prudent in all manner of behaviour, both in Publick & private; Avoiding all Intemperance in Eating & Drinking, and Likewise any foolish Jesting, or undue Liberty whatsoever. That our Conversations Seaſoned with the Fear of God may appear Correſpondent to our profeſsion and Anſwer the

1731 the Witness of God in Others: and we Advise that the Quarterly Meetings in those Counties where such Meetings are held, take Special Care in this respect.

With regard to that Openness and good Disposition which appears in the minds of People to hear the Testimony of Truth, and some Convincement in Divers Places. We earnestly advise Friends. That they be Careful of their Conduct at all times, And all Occasions. That no Stumbling Block be laid in the way of honest Enquirers, nor Offence given to tender Young Convinced Friends: "Let your Light so shine before Men that they may see your good Works, and Glorify your Father which is in Heaven". Let us walk wisely towards those that are without as well as those within, Let our Moderation & Prudence, as well as Truth and Justice appear to all Men, and in all Things, in Trading & Commerce in Speech & Communication, in Eating & Drinking, in habit & Furniture, and Thro' all in a meek lowly quiet Spirit; That as we Profess to be a Spiritual minded People, We may appear to be such, as being bounded by the Cross of Christ, Shew forth the Power of that Divine Principle We make Profession of by a Conversation every way agreeable thereunto.

be carefull that no Stumbling Block be laid in they way of Enquirers &c

1734

1734 And Seeing it is very evident that Evil communications Corrupt good manners, We think Proper to recommend with much affection to our Young Friends that they be very Careful to avoid all such Company as by a Light and vain conversation would tend to alienate their minds from the Love of Virtue and Sobriety, for "The Discourse of fools is Irksome & their Sport is in the Wantonness of Sin Ecclesiastes 27:13: If (therefore) Thou be among the Indiscreet observe the time, tarry not there, but be continually among Men of Understanding Ver. 12. ——

to avoid Light & Vain Company.

And See Scriptures p: 319.

1736

Conversation

1736

1736.

Tho' the Accounts we have received from some Places in this and other Countries of the Prosperity of Truth, and of the coming forth of some among us in a publick Testimony thereunto have been very acceptable unto us; Yet it is with much Grief and Concern that we Observe in some a Declension from the way of Righteousness & Truth, as well as from the Plainness of Habit, and Simplicity of Speech & Behaviour, which were so Conspicuous in our early Friends, and many of their Offspring: This Declension, We apprehend, arises from a Disregard to the divine Light & Truth they have often been recommended to, as the Regulator of their words & Actions.—

Declension Observed.

& from whence it ariseth

By a Careful Conscientious Regard to this, the holy Men in all Ages Obtained a good report, and our Antients, and many of their immediate Offspring were comely in the Eyes of the Nation, for their Solid Deportment, and Religious Regard to their Words & Actions; A Godly fear rested upon their minds. That the Precious Truth and Principle which they Professed, and felt the blessed Effects of, might not suffer Reproach from their misconduct: The like holy Concern now would tend to regulate our Youth, and Render them more Comely in the Eyes of beholders. than any External Ornaments or Deckings of the Body whatsoever; This would instruct them to avoid all Pride & Affectation, and Endue them with Humility, Modesty, & Virtue which recommend to the Favour of God, and a good Esteem among Men;

By what the holy obtained a good Report in all Ages

A Religious Regard to the Principle of Light & Truth, God's witness in the Mind & heart of Man ever Produces the most beneficial Effects, as well to Society in General, as to every one in particular, This would introduce Universal Love Peace & Concord

among

1736 among Mankind; This would Sweeten the bitter Spirit, Mollifie and Aſswage the fierce & violent diſpositions of Men, Mutually Endear Relations & Friends, and bring all into the Unity and Fellowship of the holy Spirit the Fruits whereof, the Apostle declareth are Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Brotherly kindneſs and Charity: We do therefore most earnestly recommend a Strict attention to this holy & divine Principle to Friends every where, and in a particular manner to the Youth of the present Generation.

And Dear Friends, in order that as we have received Christ, so we may walk in him, in all Holineſs & Godlineſs of Conversation, We earnestly Exhort that Ye hold fast the Profeſsion of the Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ without wavering, both in Respect to his Outward Coming in the Flesh, His Sufferings Death, Reſurrection, Ascention, Mediation and Interceſsion at the Right Hand of the Father; And to the Inward Manifestation of his Grace and holy Spirit in our Hearts, Powerfully working in the Soul of Man to the Subduing every evil Affection and Lust, and to the purifying of Our Consciences from Dead Works to serve the Living God; And that thro' the Virtue & Efficacy of this most holy Faith Ye may become Strong in the Lord, and in the Power of his Might, which will enable You to Worship God in Spirit with acceptance, and preserve You in a lively frame of mind, from a drowsy and lukewarm Spirit which in all our Religious aſsemblies ought to be guarded against with the utmost Care and Circumspection; In this lively Faith & pure Life of Christ, You will have Victory over the World, over your Desires after the Grandure and Perishing things thereof, and over all corrupt Customs & Fashions which are contrary to the Purity of the Gospel and our Antient Christian Testimony. 1737

1737

1737 For the sake of tender and young Convinced Friends
an earnest Concern is on the Minds of many, That no
Occasion of Stumbling or Offence be laid in their way
but that all such as have made longer Profeſsion of
the way of Truth may be careful to walk before them
the like in all Holineſs & Uprightneſs of Conversation and in an
in 1731. p. 61. humble waiting upon the Lord, that their Example
may tend to the encouragement & Strengthning of those
who have been more lately Visited to a Steady & Constant
perseverance in the path which the Lord hath Directed
their feet into.

And Dear Friends, it's with much sorrow &
Grief of Heart, We have still Occasion to remind you
See p. 59. 61. of the Advices so Lately deliver'd in our Yearly Epistle
62. and namely, to keep out of the Extravagant Fashions &
under plainess Customs of the World, and not to Launch further into
p. 223. to Trade and Buſineſs than you are capable of managing
p. 229. —— & Carrying on with Reputation & Credit Among Men,
& under and without prejudice, Loſs or detriment to any.
Trading We are fully persuaded, that if Friends every where
p. 391. to had a due respect & regard to this one Precept of Christ
p. 397. - Vizt "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God & His Righteous
" -neſs!" which is the Indispensible Duty of all his
Followers to observe, We should have little or no Oc
-casion for the Repetition of such Advices; Let there-
fore We earnestly beseech you, that Precept of Our
Bleſsed Lord and Master, and Holy Head, be duly
Considered and put in Practice; that by ordering
our Conversation, agreeable to our Profeſsion, We
may shew forth the praise of him that hath Called
us; So shall We witneſs the promise to be fulfilled.
Them that honour me, saith the Lord, I will honour.

1738

1738 And for as much as we are called with an
high and holy Calling to all Holineſs & Purity of

Conversation

1738 Conversation. Let your Behaviour among Men be unblameable, and such as may adorn the Gospel of Christ; Let not the vain and foolish Fashions of the World prevail over you; —— Avoid Sports, Plays, and all such Diversions as tending to Alienate the mind from God, and to deprive the Soul of his Comfortable Preſence & Power: Be Temperate and Sober; Shun all Exceſs in Eating & Drinking: Let such of you as Deal in Spiritous Liquors be careful to Limit your Trade within the Bounds prescribed by the Law of Land; Beware lest any of you Suffer as an evil Doer— 1 Petr 4.15.

against vain fashions sports plays &c.

be Temperate &c.

1739

1739 The Advice in 1738 renewed, and earnestly beseech our Friends, and the Youth especially, to avoid all such conversation as tends to Draw out their Minds into the foolish & Wicked Pastimes with which this age abounds, particularly, Balls, Gaming-Places, Horse Races and Playhouses, those nurserys of Debauchery & Wickedneſs— the Burden and Grief of the Sober part of other Societies, as well as of our own; Practices wholly unbecoming a People under the Christian Profeſsion. &c. See the Printed Epist.

1743-

1743 See Plainneſs. page. 230

No. 7. Concerning Correspondents.

1682.

1682 See 1703. 1725. 1747. Agreed. That the Persons to be Corresponded with here, be from time to time agreed and Directed by the Meeting for Sufferings in London.

1693.

1693 Friends to write to Correspond.ts Agreed. That each Quarterly Meeting take care to Advise the Correspondents for the Counties, & any others concerned, to write only to the Correspondents in London about their Sufferings, and not to other Persons lest their Suffering Case be delayed.

1701

1701. This Meeting desires the City Correspondents do write to the several Places beyond Sea, at least Once a Year

1702

1702 Who are proper Members of the Meeting for Sufferings Agreed, after a Serious Consideration, That none are proper Members of the Meeting for Sufferings but Publick Friends; and such as are appointed or approved by the Several Quarterly Meetings of the Counties, and other Countries that Correspond with this Meeting in all Places, and are Entered as such in the Correspond Book.

1703.

1703. See 1725. After a Consideration about the Correspondents in London, It was agreed by this Meeting, That it was of Right for the Deputies of the Counties to diminish or add to their Correspondents, as They see meet.

1709.

1709 It is Agreed, That in the Epistles to Forreign Parts, Friends be acquainted of such Friends as are Named here for them to Correspond with upon the

Affairs

1709 Affairs of Truth: and to Inform them how they may direct to them, if the Friends there approve of them

per Foreign Pub: Ep. 1750 P. 77

Otherwise that they advise this Meeting who they would have for their Correspondents here; and that they let Friends here know to whom and where they shall direct to them there.

1713

1713 Recommended to the Meeting for Sufferings to Enquire whether the Epistles be Duly sent by the Correspondents to the forreign Plantations.

1717

1717 Agreed, That the London Correspondents be no more than Four for any one County or Place for the future: And that where the number at present exceeds four, as soon as any of them Decline or Dye, and they are reduced to four, the Number in these places also shall be kept to a number not exceeding Four.

no place to have more than four

1720

1720 The Meeting for Sufferings is desired to Call upon the Members thereof to give the Service of Their attendance therein; And that if Notwithstanding being so called upon, any Member shall neglect or Refuse to give their aſsistance on all neceſsary Occasions, the said Meeting is desired to acquaint therewith the County for whom such Friend ne=glecting to serve are appointed, that they may name or appoint some Other Friend who can or will at=tend the Service on all neceſsary Occasions. –

to give attendance

1725

1725 Agreed, That the Quarterly Meetings in the Country be directed expreſsly to give Instructions to their Deputies who attend this Meeting, what Correspondents they shall nominate in the City, in the Room of any Friend deceased or removed; Or else expreſsly Leave them to their Liberty of Choice, &c.

Qu: Meetings to appoint Correspond:ts

and

1725. meeting for sufferings to give notice of the death of any member

And also that the Meeting for Sufferings within some Seasonable time after the Death of any of their Members, Do give Notice to the County or Counties for whom the said Friend is appointed, in order that they may give such Directions, the next Yearly Meeting.

1730

1730 Person not to be Correspondent.

This Meeting having had under their Consideration a Proposition made relating to Persons Employed as Correspondents, some of whom have failed in the Payment of their Just Debts; 'Tis deemed that no Person under such Circumstances is fit to be Employed in that Station, till he hath given the Monthly Meeting he belongs to Satisfaction; And therefore hereby Recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings That for the Future they take Special Care, where any such failure has or may happen that they duly apprise the Counties thereof for which they stand Correspondants, in order that a new choice may be made to supply his Place.

A Copy of this Minute to be sent down to the Several Counties, for Friends there also to Act agreeable hereto, with respect to Correspondents in the Country Likewise.

Writing to forreign parts

1709 & 1718 } in p. 76.

This Meeting recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings to take due Care to see that the Correspondents for Foreign Countries answer the several Epistles received from thence; And also write to the several Distant Places in the World wherewithall this Meeting hath heretofore Corresponded where any Friends are, Notwithstanding at any time this Meeting may not have any Accounts from thence either by Epistle or otherwise; And that all such answers allowed be Signed by the Meeting for Sufferings in behalf of this Yearly Meeting.

1734

Correspondents

1734

1734

attendance Required

see 1720. 1736. 1737

It being taken notice of in this Meeting that some Friends of the City whose Names stand in the Correspondent Book, do very seldom attend the Meeting for Sufferings; This Meeting are of Opinion That such who do not attend the said Meeting at least once in a Quarter of a Year, should be Discharged by this Meeting unless some Sufficient Reason should be rendered.

1735

1735 A minute of the Like purport.

1736

1736 The Friends of the Meeting for Sufferings having laid before this Meeting, a Minute respecting some Difficulties in putting in Practice the Advices of this Meeting in the Years 1734 & 1735, relating to the attendance of the Members of that Meeting in the Service thereof; and this Meeting taking the same into their Consideration approves what the said Meeting have done. And now Agrees, That instead of being obliged to attend once a Quarter; all such Members to attend at least Six times a Year.

Attendance &c — see 1737

1737

1737 On perusing the Minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings respecting the Attendance of its Members We find that a Considerable deficiency appears in attending the same, altho for Several years past They have been earnestly requested to do it. — This Meeting being desirous They may come up in Service, request their Care and Diligence for the Future, And do Agree, That such that dont Attend at least Six times in the Year, pursuant to the direction of a Minute of the last Yearly Meeting, shall be struck out of the Correspondent Book, unless they give Sufficient Reasons to the Contrary.

not attending six times a year to be struck out

1743

Correspondents

1743

1743. See Representatives. page. 303.

1747

1747 This Meeting having Considered the Nature and Importance of the Affairs transacted by the Meeting for Sufferings, and the continued necessity there is that they should be managed by Grave and weighty Friends, Such as are themselves, Men of clean hands and adorning the Doctrines they Profess in their Lives & conversations; It is become the earnest Desire of this Meeting, that for the future, Friends every where will be Particularly Careful in their Choice of such who are to Act as Correspondents either in the City or Counties, informing themselves, as much as may be, of the Qualifications of those who are intended for such services, And that such only may be nominated, who are faithful in the several Branches of our Christian Testimony against Tithes, Bearing Arms, and Swearing; And who are also Examplary in their Conduct & Conversation amongst Men, and coming up in that Plainness of Speech, Behaviour, and Apparel which highly becom̃ those in an especial manner who are concerned in managing the Affairs of the Church.

Qualification to be considered
See 1730.
p. 77.

No 3. Concerning Covetousness.

1676

1676 not Covet to be Rich

And none desire nor Covet to be Rich in this World in these changeable things that will pass away, but your Faith to Stand in the Lord God, who Changes not, that Created all and gives the Increase of all.

1697.

1697 beware of Covetousness &c.

We do in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ Warn and Charge all that Profess the Truth among us to take heed & beware of Covetousness Over-reaching Oppressing & Defrauding of Any; from whence Strife Contention & Law Suits do often arise; And if any Difference about these things do happen among You, to Stop and Suppress it.

1699

1699 abide under the Daily Cross &c.

Let all Friends be Exhorted to abide under the Daily Cross, whereby the Earthly mind may be Crucified, which hath its Delight & Ease in vanity Pride & Covetousness, &c., That Friends being preserved out of those things wherein the Enemy hath had & has his Kingdom, and too plainly lays his Snares to hinder their holy Progress, may every where be more & more a Retired Serious Plain & Selfdenying People, growing in the Grace & Knowledge of God and our Lord Jesus Christ, and exalting his Spiritual Kingdom in their Souls.

1720

1720 beware of Covetousness & hastening to be Rich.

As Our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ Exhorted and Warned to beware & take heed of Covetousness — which is Idolatry; We are Concerned that all Professing Christianity among us, may take heed of Pride, Covetousness, and hastening to be Rich in the World, which are pernicious & Growing Evils, let them be watched against—

Covetousneſs·

1720 Against, Resisted & Suppressed in the Fear and Dread of Almighty God. and have no place or Countenance in his Camp. ——— O Ye grave Elders both Men & Women, Pray be Careful & Watchful againts these Evils, and over the Youth in these Cases.—

1721

1721 The Last Years Caution Repeated.

1725.

1725 See Children· page· 46·

No 9 Concerning Days.

1690

1690. See Children. page. 40.

1691.

1691. Advised, That Friends keep to their wonted Example and Testimony against the Superstitious Observation of Days.

1697

1697. That all Friends keep to the Simplicity of Truth in Calling the Months and Days by Scripture Names, and not by Heathen.

1715

1715 See Plainneſs. page. 226.

No 10. Concerning Defamation.

1718

1718 It is the Advice of this Meeting, that any Persons Charged with Defamation or Scandal, ought to be Proceeded against in the Manner, and by the several Steps following.

The Defamed to Deal privately with the Defamer

First — The Person defamed or supposed to be Defamed, in his own Person, or any other to whom the Knowledge of the Case shall come, to go to the Accused, and tell him his Fault or supposed Fault between them alone and by the best Method he is Capable of, to Labour to convince him of it in order to his acknowledgment of the Truth, & Repentance if he appears to be guilty: But if the accused shall appear, either thro' Ignorance not to apprehend the Validity of the Proof, or thro' Wilfulness not to yeild to it, Or being Convinced, shall refuse to make such Satisfaction as the nature of the Case requires (that being the Consequence of true Repentance) In such Case, the accuser

afterward to take one or two more & the Accused may bring one or two also.

to take with him One or two **more** of the Monthly Meeting the Accused belongs to, if it **may** conveniently be done; And if the Accused thinks fit, he may bring with him one or two Friends also, of the same Monthly Meeting if it may be conveniently done; And they together in the Wisdom of God, to Endeavour the True Knowledge of the Case, by hearing Witnesses if there be Occasion; And if they all shall Judge him Guilty, and he doth not make Satisfaction; Or if they do not all agree that he is Innocent; in either of these Cases happening The Person

may bring the case before the Church

Charging hath Liberty to bring the Matter before the Church, who are the only Judges now Remaining, both of the nature of the Fact, and the Validity of the proof of it. And They in the Wisdom of God, which We hope will not be wanting to his Church, as They humbly wait on him for it, to Deal with him for the good Ends before mentioned as they see

Cause —

Defamation.

1718

if a Case be Committed Regard is to be had to the objection of the accused-

Cause, upon a mature & Deliberate Consideration to Justify or Condemn him. And if the Church shall see meet to Commit the Consideration of a case of this Nature, for better dispatch, to Certain Persons of their own Body, We recommend it as our Tender Advice That in case the Accused shall object against one or more of the Friends so Chosen, That the Church have a due regard to such objection, and lay aside, the Person or Persons so objected against, and Subſtitute another or others in his or their room. Provided such Objection doth not extend to the Major part of the Friends so chosen: And in general, We desire all tenderneſs and regard may be had to a Person under such Circumstances; And that Friends in a Spirit of Love & Condescention, should be ready to make him as Easy as they can, Provided they keep up the Authority of their Meetings.

Nameleſs Books and Pamphlets reflecting darkly on Friends, are Testified againſt, and it's desired, that no such Books be Writtain, Printed, Published, or Privately handed about, by any under our Profeſsion for the time to come.

See Tale bearing & Back biting page 357 to page 359.

1760 The Report of the Com^{tee} and Meetings Concluſion in the Year. 1760 —

We your Committee being appointed to collect and revise a set of Rules for Church Discipline, throughout this yearly meeting, having several times met and conſidered of the Same, do report, that the Rules of our friends in old England are Suitable for us with the following remarks, Viz^{t}.

1774 This Meeting being under a weighty concern for friends who are or may be under sufferings and Difficulties, from the powers of this world, on account of our religious testimony. do — Appoint our friends ——— a Committee, who are desired to take cognizance of all grievances, arising amongst us, wherein any friend or friends may be affected either in person property, or in regard to our christian Testimony aforesaid and to advise, counsel and aſsist, as best wisdom may direct, and they are desired to meet once a Month or Oftner — if need be: — that seven of said Committee, constitute a meeting which may transact the busineſs thereof: — and that any agrieved friend or friends may apply to them either in a Collective or seperate capacity, as the circumstance of the case may require; and that said committee in a Meeting capacity draw on the Treaſurer of this Meeting for the monies that shall be neceſsary for the purpose aforesaid, who is ordered to pay the same. — and that this Committee view and judge of manuscripts proposed to be printed and correspond with the meeting for Sufferings at Philadelphia or elſewhere. —

The following Explanation of the minute of 1774 is instituted in 1777. —

1777 It is the sence and judgment of this meeting, that all Children that are born of parents while they are both members, shall be looked upon as members, and no others unleſs parents who had Children before they are members apply on their behalf, and the monthly Meeting think they are Suitable alſo where but one parent is a member either father or mother, such parent profeſsing with us may make application to the monthly Meeting on behalf of their children, and then the monthly meeting judge whether such children are suitable to be admitted as members or not; ~ e —

And it is advised that where it so happens, that but one of the parents are members of of our Society that they endeavour to educate their children agreeable to Truth as far as in their powe and not neglect to ask the care of friends in behalf of them; ~

1778 It is our judgment that the buſineſs performed in laying the ~ intentions, and receiving answers in cases of marriage in the monthly Meetings is of the same nature of the meetings other buſineſs, and that they ought to be selected in the same manner with this liberty that if any particular circumstance attend the performance at any time; orderly perſons may be admitted to attend that part of the buſineſs, provided they have the ~ convent of the meeting at that time ~ —

Discipline

No. 11. Concerning Discipline.

1675.

1675 Testimonies against offenders & their Repentance to be Recorded

Advised, That the Churches Testimonys and Judgmen against Disorderly & Scandalous Walkers, as also the Repentance & Condemnation of the Parties restored, be recorded in a Distinct Book in the respective Monthly and Quarterly Meetings for the clearing of Truth, Friends, & our holy Profeſsion; to be Produced and Published by Friends for that End & purpose; So far only as in Gods heavenly Wisdom they shall see needfull.

not to upbraid any with past offences

And it is also our Advice in the Love of God, That after any Friends repentance & Restoration he abiding faithful in the Truth that condemns the Evil, none among you so remember his Tranſgreſsion as to cast it at him, or upbraid him with it; For that is not According to the Mercies of God.

1694

1694

If there be any such Groſs Errors, false Doctrines or mistakes held by any Profeſsing Truth [in America] as either against the Validity of Christs Suffering, Blood, Resurrection, Ascension, or Glory in the Heavens, according as they are set forth in the Scriptures: Or any ways tending to the Denial of the Heavenly Man Christ; Such Persons ought to be diligently Instructed and Admonished by faithful Friends [in those parts] and not to be exposed by any to publick Reproach: and where the Error proceeds from Ignorance and Darkneſs of their Understanding, They ought the more meekly and Gently to be informed; But if any shall Wilfully persist in Error in Point of Faith, after duly Informed; Then such to be further Dealt with according to Gospel Order, that the Truth, Church or Body of Christ may not Suffer by any particular pretended Member that is so Corrupt.

1698

1698

1698 Friends to be Appointed to oversee & admonish &c.

Advised, That in all Cases wherein the Testimony of Truth is concerned, Faithful Friends of the respective Monthly Meetings be appointed to see how well those things be Observed, and tenderly to Admonish such in Brotherly Love that shall decline the same.

1701

1701

If any Weakness, Shortness, Failure or Unfaithfulness appear in any Professing the same Truth with us, We hope faithful Friends and Brethren will Continue their Christian Care for their help Instruction and Admonition, in the Love & Power of the Lord as in his Wisdom they shall see Cause, still aiming at their Good, their Inward Peace of Conscience; and Salvation in Christ Jesus.

1703

1703 To Watch over the Flock

Recommended unto faithful Friends and Elders especially, to watch over the Flock of Christ in their respective places, that they faithfully and Diligently Walk up to the Testimony of the Blessed Truth to which the Lord hath gathered us in this latter age of the World; That so where any are found Short, Weak or Faulty, they may be Admonished & sought in the Spirit of Love, which is that of the Gospel. That Divine Charity that draws as with the cords of a Man wherein Mercy is not only mixt with Judgment but may appear over all our Works, that so it may be seen to all, that Church Love abounds before Church Censure comes, and that a Gospel Spirit is the spring and Motive to all our performances as well in Discipline as Worship.

the Faulty to be admonished

1708

1708

For as much as some Persons, who by their ill Conduct have Justly deserved, and come under the Censure of the Meetings to which they belong

have —

1708
Such who have come under Censure & given a paper of Condemnation &c yet not to be so early received.

have thought to get from under the weight of that Judgment by Signing a paper of Condemnation, and thereby Suppose themselves discharged: 'Tis therefore Recommended to Friends Consideration that they be carefull not to Remit such Persons too early into Fellowship, or give them Cause to think they are Accepted, before the Meeting or Meetings are Satisfied in their Repentance and Amendment, notwithstanding such paper be given.

1718

1718

See Defamation, page, 93. 94

1724.

1724
Watch over one another for Good.

We earnestly Exhort all Friends and Brethren That under a living Concern of Spirit for the Honour of God, and welfare of his People, they diligently Watch over one another for good, and where any weakness or unfaithfulness touching any branch of our Christian Testimony appears in any making Profession with us, Let such be timely & tenderly Advised, and in the Wisdom of Truth Stirred up to their Duty.

1735

1735.
keeping up the Discipline a means of Preservation

And We do further Recommend, as a Means very Conducive to the Preservation of Friends a People of One heart and one Way, for the Good of themselves and their Children after them, That the Discipline of the Church in the several Meetings instituted for that purpose, be kept up, and managed in a Spirit of Love and Wisdom: Let all things in those Meetings be done with Charity; Let the Love of God in an Especial manner Rule in your hearts, and therein tho' Sometimes different Sentiments may arise, Yet will every Member have the same thing in View, Viz^t. the Glory of God and the good of his Church and People, and in this singleness of heart they will best promote the great End and Services of those Meetings: &c.

We

Discipline—

1735 We advise therefore upon this Occasion That
nothing be thro. Strife and Contention, Nor from any
private View, Or the Influence of Numbers; But in
Lowlineſs of mind let each esteem another better than
himself; and where any Debates arise, Endeavour in
a Spirit of meekneſs to Convince One another, And
as you so Stand mutually engaged in Love, your hearts
will be Enlarged, and all undue Warmths and Discord
will be gradually removed, And you will be enabled
thro. Meekneſs, Humility Longsuffering & Forbearance
One of another, to keep the Unity of the Spirit in the
Bond of Peace, always bearing in mind that Excellent
Caution of the Apostle Gal: 5: 26. Let us not be desirous
of vain Glory. "provoking one another, envying one another,
" knowing this. That the Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy,
" Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleneſs, Goodneſs, Faith,
" Meekneſs, Temperance, against such there is no
" Law; And they that are Christs have Crucified the
" Flesh with the affections and Lusts; If we Live in
" the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Ver. 22. 23. 24. 25.

See Appeals. page 1. to 4.
Arbitrations. p. 9. to 16
Families. p. 117. to 119.
Fighting. p. 123. to 125.
Marriage. p. 145. to 152

1741.

1741 See Marriage. page. 152.

1743.

1743 See Meeting. for Discipline. p. 176.

1744

1744 See Law — page. 138.
Marriage — page. 153
Talebearing. page. 359.
Fighting. page. 124.

1745

1745 See Appeals. page. 4.

1747

1747 offender may be Dealt with by the mo.ly Meet.g where they Reside

Agreed. That where a Person Commits an Offence within a Monthly Meeting wherein he resides but is not properly a Member by the Rules of Settlement, shall by such Monthly Meeting where the Offence is Committed be Dealt with. And if it be of such a Nature as Merrits a Denial, the said Meeting shall Disown him: And on his Repentance receive him again into Unity: Which shall not Intitle him to Membership in the Monthly Meeting so having Dealt with him, but to the Meeting of which he was a Member before such Dealing; And the Monthly Meeting who hath Disowned or Accepted such Friend shall immediately give Notice of such Denial or Acceptance to the Monthly Meeting to which he belongs.

See Marriage. page. 154.

1748

1748

See Marriage. page. 155.

1749

1749 Keep out of heats & Strife &c.

Advised. That Friends would be very Careful to avoid & beware of that Spirit which Leadeth into heats & Strife, and which can never work the Righteousness of God; But treat such with tenderness & affection in whom there may be a difference of Opinion, Endeavouring in the Love & Meekness of Truth to Convince their Judgments, and patiently to wait for the healing Influences of the Love of God which will produce that Brotherly Regard and Condescention, as may Unite their Spirits to him and one unto another.

1750

1750

The Want of our Concern to Deal with such as Walk inconsistently with our holy Profession, and are unfaithful in respect to our Christian

Testimony

1750

Early and Diligent Care over the unfaithful Recommended

Testimony being but too Obvious, An early and diligent Care over such is earnestly recommended. And we desire, that all who have at heart the Honour of God, and the prosperity of Truth, would be stirred up to discharge this necessary part of Christian Duty, in their respective Stations: Timely Caution may often prevent unhappy Effects; and a Brotherly Care over such as are in danger of receiving hurt, may be rewarded with the Secret Satisfaction of being made Instrumental in their Preservation.

Greatly would the Christian Discipline established amongst us, if thus Exerted in divine Wisdom & Zeal, contribute to prevent the growing Evils & hurtful Liberties of various kinds, which appear in too many places, to the Dishonour of God, the grief of good Men & the reproach of our holy Profession.

But if Individuals neglect their Duty, Grow cool in their Love to God, and lose that hunger after divine Virtue & inward support, to live to his praise & their own Comfort, which is the certain effect of his visitation wherever it is Embraced; How can a proper Concern for the good of others, and for the Prosperity of Truth, have due place in their minds? Or be properly exerted by those who are not enough Engaged to feel after the increase of it's blessed Effects for themselves?

As this neglect, of steadily applying & waiting for heavenly Virtue and Ability to discharge the Duties required of us, is the Source of loss & Decay to particulars, with respect to a growth in Religion, So the same unhappy Effects are communicated to the body; and where this is the Case, evidently discover themselves in a disregard to Discipline, and the want of a proper Concern for the good Order of the Church.

Let

1750

Let all therefore be excited to Labour, in a Spirit of Love and fervent Charity, with such as may be in danger of falling into things injurious to their Peace, and tending to the dishonour of our Christian Profession; So that in thus exercising a tender Care and Watchfulness over One another for mutual Edification, We may approve ourselves faithful Just and true in the sight of God, and Examples of Temperance, Patience, Purity and Holiness before Men to the Praise of the most High the comfort of his People and our own eternal Hapiness.

1751

1751

answr.s to Queries, plain & Explicit.

The Answers to our Queries brought in being plain & explicit, have in that respect given this Meeting good Satisfaction —— thereby affording an Opportunity to this Meeting to impart the necessary Advices: Which Care we recommend to the practice of every Quarterly Meeting.

Elder.

And we Intreat the Elders amongst you, Rule with diligence, abide in that Power that gives Dominion over all Corrupt Spirits, and in Meekness & Condescention seek to recover that which is strayed; that when the great Shepherd shall appear. You may receive your Reward.

1760

1760

method for Innitiating Convinced persons into Membership

Agreed and concluded at the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode: Island, That for Innitiating Convinced persons into Membership, Who have not had their Birth & Education amongst Friends.

That they first apply to a **Preparative** Meeting, and in person request to come under the Care of Friends if the preparative Meeting approve the same that

They

1760 They acquaint the Monthly Meeting thereof; and the Person so requesting to attend at that time and signifie his or her Desire to be taken under their Care; whereupon the Monthly Meeting shall appoint Suitable Friend's to Enquire into the Persons Life & Conversation, and also to take a Solid Opportunity of Conference with the Petitioner in Order the better to understand whether their motive for such Request be sincere and from the Bottom of True Conviction, and make report accordingly to the Monthly Meeting which if satisfactory to the meeting that a Minute be then made thereon Signifying their Accepting such a Person into Membership with us.

The Apostles Advice to be minded — But in all such Cases Friend's are desired, Carefully to attend to the Advice of the Apostle. Vizt. — Lay hands suddenly on no Man.

See Removals &c — page 287.

1772 -

1772 It is the Sence and Judgment of this Meetg. that it is not consistant with our Religious profession for the Members ~~their~~ of our society to Joyn themselves with those calld. Free-masons. and advise that Quarterly and monthly Meetings diswade their Members therefrom, and if any continue therein or others Joyn therewith contrary to the advice herein contained that they be dealt with as such who refuse the advice of Friends —.

It is Likewise the sence and Judgment of this Meeting that Supscriptions Collections & donations for publick uses ought to be receivd. from the Members of our Society only —

1774

1774

It is the sense and judgment of this Meeting, that the Children of such Parents as are married among Friends ſhall be looked upon as Members and the Children of ſuch Parents as become Members by request and are born afterwards, ſhall be likewise looked upon as Members, as also their Children born before, if the Parents apply on their behalf, and the Monthly Meeting think they are ſuitable and that when but one of the Parents is a Member, either Father or Mother become so either by application or otherwise their Children ſhall not be looked upon as Members, unleſs their Father or Mother profeſsing with us make application to the Monthly Meeting on account of their Children, and then the Monthly Meeting judge whether ſuch Children be ſuitable to be admitted as Members or not, and it is advised that when it so happens that but one of the Parents are Members of our Society that they endeavour to bring up their Children agreeable to Truth as far as is in their power and not neglect to ask the Care of Friends in behalf of their Children—

1770

1770

Respecting the proposal brought from the Morning meeting of miniſters and Elders, concerning members not attending their meetings, it is our Judgment that the same be Established as a Rule in our society

Concerning the request brought from said morning meeting it is our Judgment, that the establishing such select meetings, under such regulations, as is prescribd in sd. request may be of Service in our Society as follows that where it shall appear, upon due inspection made

1770 that any member shall, or do neglect, or omit the due attendance of their meetings through Sloth, indolence love of the world, or Lukewarmneſs in Religion, that each monthly meeting take care that all such be timely viſited in love, and acquainted with the mind and desire of friends in that caſe and admoniſhed to faithfullneſs therein. and if notwithstanding the due Christian labour and admonition, he she or they shall continue in the said neglect or omiſsion if a Miniſter his or her public Testimony be denied, and if an Elder he or she be Diſmiſsed from that Station —

We alſo desire that you would take into conſideration whether it might not prove advantagious to our society to have at each General meeting a Select meeting, both at the begining and end of every such meeting; and a Committee appointed have the oversight of such meetings, and make report to the Select meeting then in being, and alſo to the Yearly meeting of miniſters and Elders annually at Newport

And as to the Matter referr· from the Quarterly meeting of Rhodeisland, concerning what Tranſgreſsions, or misconduct ought to be publickly testified against either by the meeting, or the parties offending; it is our Judgment, that the first paragraph in the book of Discipline, under the head of Discipline page 99, is a Sufficient Rule in that caſe if attended to. —

Se page 155; Concerning Members undertaking to Join people in marriage

No. 12. Concerning Disputes.

1676

1676
Shun vain disputes

Advised, That Friends be tender to the tender Principle of God in all, and shun the Occasion of vain Disputes and Janglings, both among themselves and others; for that many times is like a blustering Wind, that hurts and bruises the tender buds & plants.

1699

1699
an humble condescending Spirit recommended.

Because our Comfort as a People depends upon our Care to maintain Peace and Fellowship among Brethren in all our Services; We earnestly recommend an humble & condescending frame of Spirit unto all; that with Godly Fear, Wisdom and Meekness We may be so ordered in all our respective Services that every high and rough thing may be laid Low, and all occasion of striving be prevented, the Peace of the Church of Christ preserved & augmented among us; And to that purpose it is tenderly Advised, That We diligently & carefully observe the comely and blessed Gospel Order so long known, and in Practice among us, in the Spirit of meekness and of a sound Mind, which is the Way to Crush all Differences in their Infancy, and Suppress the Rise as well as Stop the Progress of every thing that's unseemly & inconsistent with the Testimony of the precious Truth.

to prevent all Occasion of strife
& Crush all differences

1736

1736
seek peace & not be apt to take Offence

And it is the earnest Desire of this Meeting, that a Spirit of Love & humility may more & more diffuse it Self among us, and Influence the Hearts of all that so every one may come to seek Peace & pursue it. And that none be apt to take Offence; But each in his own particular be more Careful to rectify his own failings & imperfections, than curious in Observing, Censuring —

1736 Censuring & aggravating those of others, This will lead to the Exercise of mutual Forbearance & forgiveness one of another; by which the occasion of Contention will be avoided, and the Churches preserved in a State of Peace and Tranquillity.

Donations

1772 As to Subscriptions, collections and donations for publick uses, it is our sence and judgment they ought to be taken and received from the members of our Society only. —

No. 13. Concerning Epistles.

1696

1696 to be peruſed before Read in the Yearly Meet. Ordered. That all Epistles directed to the Yearly Meeting, not already Read by the Second-Days-Morning-Meeting, be peruſed & Considered by Persons appointed by the Yearly Meeting, before they are publickly Read in the said Meeting

1698

1698 anſwers Ordered. That the Answers to the Several forreign Epistles, when drawn, be brought to the Second days Morning Meeting before sent, and Coppies left there.

1701.

1701 See Correspondents page. 75.

1702

1702 Anſwers Agreed. That when Anſwers are drawn up to the Several Epistles, they may be Shewn unto the Second-days Morning Meeting, and Sent as formerly, and the Epistles left there.

1709 & 1713

1709 1713 See Correſpondents page. 75, & 76.

1715

1715 to be ſigned at the Morn: meetg: & meetg: for Sufferings This Meeting desires the Correspondents to make ſpedy Answers to the Epistles delivered them, and that the same, when prepared, be brought to the Morning Meeting and the Meeting for Sufferings in order to be ſigned.

1719.

1719 Epistles from Foreign pts Whereas it is observed, that in some Epistles from forreign Parts mention is made, that they are ſigned by Order and in behalf of the said Meetings, but no notice that they have been read & approved there; It is therefore desired that due Care be taken

that

1719 that as often as may be, Such Epistles may be Read
and approved in those Meetings, and expressed in
the Epistles they have been So: The Correspondents
for foreign parts to give them notice hereof.

1728

1728 'Tis referred to the Meeting for Sufferings to
to be sent take Care to Send Epistles to all the American
to all Islands, and Other Places abroad in the Brittish
parts where Frds or Other Dominions, where any Friends are Resident
are

1730

1730 This Meeting recommends it to the Meeting
for Sufferings to take due Care to see that the
The Meeting for Sufferings Correspondents for foreign Countries, answer the
to answer Several Epistles receiv.d from thence, and also
Epistles to write to the Several distant places in the
& to write World, wherewithall this Meeting hath heretofore
to all Corresponded: where any Friends are Notwith=
other places standing at any time this Meeting may not have
where Frds any Account from thence, either by Epistle or other
are wise: And that all such answers allowed, be sign
altho no =ed by the Meeting for Sufferings on behalf of
Epistle be recd. this Yearly Meeting.

No 147 Concerning Visiting of Families.

1708

1708 Forasmuch as a Godly Care is growing among Friends in many Places, that all things which are unsavory and hurtful might be removed; that so all that profeſs the precious Truth with us, may come up together in the good order of the Gospel; For the furthering of which and encouraging thereunto, It is recommended, That weighty & Sensible Friends of unblameable Conversations, be Chosen in the Wisdom of God, to visit the Families of Friends in his Love; who are desired to Advise or admonish in the peaceable Spirit of Truth, as Occasion may be Seen.

advice to visit Families,

See. 1698 p. 100.

1710

1710 We esteem it very neceſsary & requisite, that Young Convinced, and well inclined Persons & Friends, be early Visited in the Love of God, by faithful Friends, for their Encouragement, help and Furtherance in the Truth: And that the Christian Duty of Visiting the Sick, be timely remembred and Practised, it having often left Comfort Ease & Sweetneſs upon the Spirits of many to their very End

to visit young convinced friends. & the sick:

1729

1729 And we would hope, if Friends in their Monthly Meetings, should pursuant to the Directions of this meeting in the Epistle 1708, appoint proper Sensible and honeſt Friends to visit their respective Members, it may in great Meaſure prevent the neceſsity of Repeating the Advices which have been so frequently given.

1731

1731 See Children page. 47.

1733-

1733

1733 We again Recommend to Friends in their several monthly Meetings to take especial Care to appoint proper prudent and Judicious Friends to visit their Brethren in their Families pursuant to former Advices, viz.t in the Epistles 1708 & 1729, herewith sent; And that such Friends Labour faithfully in a Spirit of Love and in the Meekneſs of Wisdom, to Convince the Judgment of their respective Members, of the neceſsity of their coming up with their Brethren in Practice agreeable to our Christian Profeſsion; That so the several Branches of the Testimony which Truth hath given our Antients and us to bear, may be maintained unviolated. ———

to appoint friends to visit Families p: 117

See Meetings for Discipline, p: 173.

1737

1737 And Dear Friends, having received very comfortable Accounts from Divers places, of the good disposition raised in the minds of Young Persons to walk in that Plainneſs & Selfdenial which have been often recommended by this Meeting; We earnestly desire, That Parents & Guardians, and Friends every where, would Watch over such, and Encourage and cherish every thing that may Contribute to their groth & progreſs in the Ways of Truth & Holineſs: And for the Strength and Encouragement of every such well disposed Young Person, We earneſtly Exhort Masters & Mistreſses of Families to be Examplary, & to Enforce their Advice by an Agreeable Conversation or Practice; and in no wise to discourage, but Encourage both their Children & Servants in that plainneſs of Speech & behaviour which the Truth leads to.

Freemasons

1772 See page 23

No. 154 Concerning Fighting.

1693

1693 against Carrying Guns in Ships

A Complaint being made about some Ship-Masters, who profess the Truth, and are Esteemed Quakers, their Carrying Guns in their Ships — Supposing thereby to defend and Secure themselves and their Ships. contrary to their former Practice and Principle & to the endangering their own & others Lives thereby Also giving Occasion of more Severe hardships and Sufferings to be inflicted on such Friends as are Pressed into Ships of War, who for Conscience sake cannot Fight nor Destroy Mens Lives: Tis therefore recommended to the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings whereunto such Ship Masters belong, to Deal with them in Gods Wisdom and tender Love, to stir them up and awaken their Consciences, that they may seriously consider how they injure their own Souls in so doing and what Occasion they give to make the Truth and Friends to suffer by their declension and acting contrary thereunto, thro Disobedience & unbelief, Placing their Security in that which is altogether Insecure and Dangerous; which we are really sorry for, and sincerely desire their recovery, and Safety from Destruction, that their Faith & Confidence may be in the Arm & Power of God. — See more in the same Printed Epistle.

1709

1709 The foregoing Advice still Recommended.

1730

1730 against bearing Arms or Fighting

It hath been a weighty Concern on this Meeting, That our antient & Honourable Testimony against Friends being Concerned in bearing Arms, or Fighting, may be maintained; It being a Doctrine ——

and

1730 and Testimony agreable to the Nature and Deſign of the Christian Religion, and to the Universal Love and Grace of God: This Testimony We deſire may be Strictly & carefully maintained by a Godly Care and Concern in all to Stand Single & Clear therein; So shall we Strengthen & Comfort one another.

1742

1742 See Questions. page. 272.

1744

1744 It having been in preſsing Terms repreſented and Complained of to this Meeting, that Notwithstanding We have, as a People, Looked upon ourselves, as well as the Primitive Christians, to be included in that notable Prophecy, Isaiah, 2^{d}. They shall beat their swords into Plough Shares, and their spears into pruning hooks, and learn War no more.

Testimony against War Agreable to the Doctrine of our Bleſsed Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, and his Apostles, to which our Antient Friends abundantly bore Testimony, both in Doctrine & Practice, and Suffered Deeply for, and Confirmed & ratified by several of Our Yearly Meetings, particularly in the Years 1693 1709 and 1730, by their Expreſs Declarations & Testimonies against Carrying Guns for Defending our Ships Persons & Goods: And being under many Strong Engagements to observe the same from the Particular Care of Providence over such as have been Faithful to this Our Testimony, — Particularly those of our Friends in Pensilvania.

Nevertheleſs some Profeſsing to be of our Society have of Late Slighted and Neglected this our Antient & Christian Testimony to that Degree as to be Concerned in Privateering, or as Owners in Ships going with Letters of Marque; which is a flagrant & Lamentable Departure from our

Privateering &c.

Peaceable

1744 Peaceable Principle, which hath always been to Confide in the Protection and Providence of Almighty God, and not in Weapons of War; Which Practice of theirs may be attended with Injustice, Barbarity & Bloodshed.

This Meeting therefore having taken this sorrowful and afflicting Case, and Breach of Our Antient Testimony into our Serious Consideration. have thought it our Incumbent Duty; to bear Our Testimony against Such Practices; And 'tis the Unanimous Sence of this Meeting, That all Quarterly and Monthly Meetings ought Spedily to Deal with every [illegible] Person found in the Practice of such— things, in the Spirit of Truth and Love in Order to bring them to a Sence of their Error, & to reclaim them from it; which if they cannot do, then to Testify against them, and let them know, We have no Unity or Fellowship with them.

and See Questions. page, 273.

No. 164 Concerning Kings & Governours.

1689

1689 to give no Offence to them in Governm.t

Advised. To Walk wisely & circumspectly towards all Men, in the peaceable Spirit of Christ Jesus, giving no Offence nor Occasions to those in outward Government; nor way to any Controversies Heats or distractions of this World about the Kingdoms of it; but Pray for the good of all, and Submit all to that Divine Power & Wisdom which Rules over the Kingdoms of Men. 1690

1690 It is Advised, That Friends be circumspect, & not make it their Business to Discourse of the Outward Powers, but to discourage all such things. -

And, Dear Friends, although we gave plain & Christian Advice & admonition last year, for Friends to beware of all airey Discourses Disputes & Controversies about the Kingdoms of this World, that all might Walk wisely & circumspectly, in Subjection to the divine and over Ruling Power & Wisdom of God: yet contrariwise, to Our Grief, We have heard too much Complaint and reflections occasioned by some who have not observed a true Bridle to theirs Tongues; but have been too busy loose & airey in Discourses of that nature: And therefore We do Exhort & Admonish all such, in the Fear of God; and as they have respect unto his holy Truth and innocent People, & their own Safety, to be Watchful, Careful & circumspect for the time to come, that none may Suffer as busybodies, nor bring Suffering or Reproach, or cause Jealousies to be raised upon or againgst Others that are innocent, and Singly desire the Preservation Safety & Peace of all Friends in Truth and innocency towards all Men. 1692

Kings & Governours.

1692

thankful achnowledgment of the Favour of the Government

to live peaceably under it

1692 This Meeting was well Satisfied, & very Glad in the Sence they had of the Innocency & peaceableness of the Body of our Friends in general towards the Civil Government, under which We live & Enjoy our present Liberty, in the peaceable Exercise of our tender Consciences toward Almighty God, to whom we are humbly thankful for the same; being Obliged to Demean Ourselves not only as a grateful People, but as a Christian Society to live Peaceably and innoffensively under the present Government as we have always done under the various Revolutions of Government ever since We were a People, according to our Antient Christian Principle & Practice in which, we hope, We shall ever persevere to the End of our Days; according as we are Enjoined by our peaceable Saviour Christ Jesus, and the Christian Advice of his faithful Servants and Ministers among us: We being a People Clear in the sight of God from all evil Designs Plots & Conspiracies whatsoever; And hope in God that we shall continue a People always Quiet in the Land, having nothing but Love & Goodwill to all Men; For which End We earnestly desire & hope, that a Christian Care may not be wanting among You for the Preservation of our whole Society in that Innocent life & Peaceable Conversation, which is agreeable to our Christian Principle & Profession wherein we have from the begining found our Safety, and Peace with God, and him to be our Defence; being fully perswaded, This Our Antient Christian Testimony publickly Owned among us, None can Gainsay, Nor any faithful Friends to God and Christ can ever decline it, being Assured our God will in his own due Time remove all offences & Causeless Jealousies & Reproaches tending to Cloud our Innocency, and will Set his own Power and Peaceable Kingdom of his Dear Son over all.

1695

1695

1695

See Parliament, page, 215.

1698

1698 Testimony against Defrauding the Government,

This Meeting understanding that Some in the Government have reported, that some Persons who are called Quakers have used secret and indirect ways to take up their Goods without paying the Customs and Duties which the Law hath laid upon them, whereby the King is Defrauded of his Right. ——

This Meeting thereupon declares It to be the Judgment of Truth & Friends, that all such Practices are Evil; And that if any Person who profeſseth Truth should be Guilty thereof Such Persons would thereby Go out of Truth, and Act contrary thereunto.

1703

1703 not to Defraud the Government.

Advised. To Avoid all indirect & unwarrentable Methods both in Trade & Merchandize, by which the Government may be defrauded of it's Due, that so no Reproach may be brought upon our holy Profession by such things.

1705

1705 To walk worthy of the favour of the Government.

Since the Lords good Providence has so far bleſsed Friends as to give them favour with the Government; It is desired that Friends would Continue, with all humility, to Walk worthy of that Mercy; and Improve the Same by a Gentle and peaceable Conversation towards all Men, in their respective places of abode.

1709

1709 not to Deminish Customs &c.

Advised not to put any abuse on the Government by Endeavouring to diminish any of the Customs Excise, or any other publick Civil Dues. ——

Yet if any going under Our Profeſsion should happen to

1709 to be sofar Tempted thro.u Covetousness and the Love of unrighteous Gain, as to be Drawn into any such Evil. We Desire you will Deal with Such Persons, to make them Sensible of such Corrupt & pernicious Practices, that Our holy Profession may not be Blemished thereby: Nor any Offence given nor Injury done by being Concerned in prohibited Goods; Or Wrecks unrighteously taken away from the Just Owner.

to Deal with the Guilty.

against being Concerned in prohibited Good & Wrecks

1715

1715 As the Blessed Truth we profess teacheth us to Do Justly unto all Men, in all things, even so more especially in a faithful Subjection to the Government, in all Godliness & honesty, continuing to Render unto the King that is his Due in Taxes and Customs payable to him according to Law.

1719

1719 against defrauding the King & Exporting Wool or other Goods prohibited by Law.

As our Testimony hath ever been and still is, against the Defrauding the King of any of his Customs, Duties or Excise; Buying Goods reasonable Suspected to be Run; Exporting Wool, or any other Goods prohibited by Law. Or doing any other thing whatsoever to the Injury of the King's Revenues or of the Common Good, Or to the hurt of the fair Trader; So if any Person or Persons under our name & profession, Shall be known to be Guilty of these or any such Crimes & Offences, We do earnestly Advise the respective Monthly Meetings to which such Offenders belong, that They severely reprehend and Testify against such Offenders, and their unwarrantable clandestine and unlawful actions, and Admonish them to make Restitution for the Wrong done to the Government, and the holy Truth Professed by us.

Offenders to be Testified against

1721

1721 The Advice of 1719 repeated.

1723

Kings & Governours

1723

1723 See Questions. page. 271.

1730

1730 Advised, That Friends behave with all dutifulneſs and gratitude and especially to Discountenance every the Least appearance of indecent freedom, or mark of Dissatisfaction in Word or Writing, relating to the Government

1732

1732 It is very acceptable to us to find by the Accounts from the several parts of the Kingdom, that according to former Exhortations of this Meeting Friends continue generally Careful not to Defraud the King of his Customs Duties or Excise; And so far to discourage such Practices, as to avoid Dealing in Goods reasonably suspected to be Run; This is a Care highly commendable, and no Doubt incumbent on every honeſt Subject; But as the Government hath Signally favoured us in our Religious Liberties, We are under the greater Obligations of Gratitude as well as Duty, to manifest that we are as truly Conscientious to Render to Cesar the things that are Cesar's as to Support any other Branch of our Christian Testimony.

1733

1733 The Last Years advice again Recommended.

1734

1734 We are glad to hear by the accounts received, that Friends are generally found in the Practice of their Christian Duty of Rendering to Cesar the things that are Cesars: And do earnestly recommend a Strict Care for the Continuance of the same in every Branch of the Kings Revenue.

1735

Kings & Governours

1735

1735 The Advices We have received of the general Care of Friends to keep Clear from Defrauding the King in any Branch of his Revenue, are very acceptable to us, Who hold it our Indispensible Duty, with regard to Kings, and all that are in Authority, to Lead a quiet and Peaceable Life in all Godlineſs & Honeſty.

1736

1736 By accounts from the Several Counties, We do not understand but that Friends are Clear from the Practice of Runing of Goods, or defrauding the King of his Customs or Revenues: We earneſtly recommend the continuance of that neceſsary Duty; and desire that Friends every where may be Careful to Discourage such Practices, which are not only unjust but also inconsistent with that Gratitude Which We as a People ought to Expreſs towards a Government to whoſe Lenity & Goodneſs we are Obliged for the Privileges We Enjoy.

1737

1737 Finally Brethren. We recommend you to the Direction and Guidance of the unerring Spirit of Truth within, and the excellent Precepts & Inſtructions of the holy Scriptures without, which if you shall diligently take heed unto, you will not fail of being perfectly Instructed in the great Duties of Worship towards God the Father and Author of all our Mercies, of Fidelity & Gratitude to the Government, which his merciful Providence has set over us, of Love and peace among yourselves, and of Justice & Benevolence towards all Men.

1735

1735 Agreed and Concluded at the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island. That whereas there is a matter Referred to this Meeting relating to Friends Signing Commiſsions to Support Millitary Affairs, it is the Judgment & Concluſion of this Meeting that it is Contrary to our principles, And whosoever has or shall preſume to give or Sign such Commiſsions Acts Contrary to our Principles & the Antient Testimony of Friends.

Signing Commiſsions for Military affairs, not allowed of

Lotteries

1760 This Meeting under a weighty concern on account of the prevailing evil amongst divers profeſsing with us of being concerned in Lotteries this Meeting therefore can do no leſs, than earneſtly recommend to the several Quarterly and Monthly meetings, that they do advise such of their members, who have been concerned any ways therein that they do desist from the practice for the future ----

No 171 Concerning Law.

1675

1675 As the Meeting doth not Enjoin, Impose upon, or Advise any Friends in Sufferings to take Course at Law for a Remedy, So neither can we Impose upon them not to use the Law in any Case; But a Freedom is left to the Sufferers to Use such Means as Consists with the Unity of Friends, and their own Peace and Satisfaction in the Truth, and in the bearing a faithful Testimony in Righteousneſs.

Friends at Liberty to Defend themselves at Law or not.

That Friends do not Judge nor Reflect upon One another in those Cases; A Freedom being left upon urgent Occasions, to take such Course for Relief and Ease to the Oppreſsed as may not be prejudicial to Truths Testimony.

not to reflect upon one another therefore.

That if any Friend or Friends apprehend a Neceſsity to Endeavour for Relief by the Law of the Land to Stop the Destroyers &c. They first Advise about their Case with their respective Monthly or Quarterly Meetings; or at least with some of the Principal Friends relating thereto.

to advise with their meeting

That Friends who Suffer be advised not to Let out their Minds into too much Expectation of outward Relief by Friends here in point of Law; but that they patiently and principally Depend upon the Lord, and his Power to plead their Cause.

1676

1676 That Friends be careful of Entangling themselves in the Law, because of some small Irregularities in Proceeding. But if the Law be materially tranſgreſsed, and the Severity of it exceeded by Our Persecutors; That Friends in Gods Wisdom use their Liberty, upon Serious & good advice among themselves, So as the Truth, & its Testimony, may be kept Clear over all.

1693

Law

1693 1696 1697

1693, 1696, 1697.

See Arbitrations, page, 9. 10 & 11. 12.

1698

1698

See Kings and Governours page 129.

1720 1725 1737

1720. 1725. 1737.

See Arbitrations, page. 13 & 15.

1744

1744

a. refers to Arbitrations p. 14

b. refers to a Minute in 1697 see Arbitrations p. 12 & 14

A Minute of this Meeting in 1720.[a] Advise, That Persons, professing with us have proved so base & unworthy, as when they have run themselves into Debt, to remove themselves or their Effects to prevent Justice; Whereby those Creditors who are Friends, have been deprived of an Opportunity of the common Method of Friends specified in the Minute aforesaid;[b] ——. It is hereby declared that the last Paragraph of the said Minute, which prohibits Friends to Sue or Arrest One another &c —— Is not intended to Prevent Such evil Persons in those Practices from being Dealt with by a Legal Process, as the nature of the Case may require; of which Circumstance the Monthly & Quarterly meetings are the Proper Judges, So it is not doubted but they will do Justice to the Parties concerned therein.

This Meeting doth request every Monthly Meeting to appoint & Depute proper Persons out of their Several Meetings, for such Friends as may have Occasion, to Advise with in the Intervals of Monthly Meetings, and if they See Cause, to give Liberty to Recover as above.

No 18: Concerning. Love.

1703

1703 See Discipline, page, 100

1718

1718 See Yearly Meeting, page, 409

1730

1730. Among all the Gospel Precepts We find not any thing more Strongly & Frequently recommended by Our Lord Jesus Christ, and his Apostles, to the Primitive Believers, than that they should Love One another. And as We are Sensible that nothing will more Contribute to the Peace and Prosperity of the Church than a due Regard to this Advice, So We earnestly Desire, that it may be the Care & Concern of all Friends every where to Dwell therein; And in the Unity of the holy Spirit to Maintain Love Concord & Peace in & among all the Churches of Christ.

1734. 1734. See Scriptures, page, 319
1735. 1735. See Discipline page, 101, 102.
1736. 1736 See Disputes page, 109.

No. 19. Concerning Marriage.

1675.

1675

against marriage with near Kindred.

It is our living Sence & Judgment in the Truth of God, that not only these marriages of near Kindred expressly forbidden under the Law, ought not to be Practised under the Gospel; But that in as much as any Marriage of Near Kindred in the Times of the Law was in Condescention, and upon such Extraordinary Occasions as upholding their Tribes; And that the Nearer their Marriages were, the more unholy they were accounted: We in our Day ought not to approach our near Kindred in any such respect, Particularly First Cousins; being redeemed Out of these Kindreds Tribes and Earthly Lots, (for the upholding of which Marriages within the Kindred were once dispenced with) and brought to that Spiritual Dispensation which gives Dominion over the affections, and leads to those Marriages which are more Natural and are of better report. And tho' Some through Weakness have been drawn into Such Marriages (which being done must not be broken) Yet Let not their Practice be any precedent or example to any Others amongst us for the Time to Come.

particularly First Cousins.

To break or Violate any Engagement not to be allowed.

That Such Friends as have with Serious Advice, due Deliberation, free & Mutual Consent, as in the Sight of God, and Unity of his blessed Truth, absolutely agreed Espoused or Contracted upon the Account of Marriage — Shall not be allowed or owned amongus, in any unfaithfulness or Injustice One to another, to brake or Violate any such Contract or Engagement, which is to the reproach of Truth, or Injury One of another: And where any such Injury Breach or violation of such Solemn Contract is known or Complained of, or Enmity or Strife occasioned thereby; We Advise and Counsel, That a few faithful Friends, both Men & Women,

in

1675

in their Respective Meetings to which the Parties belong, be appointed to Enquire into the Cause thereof; And in the Wisdom & Counsel of God, to put a Stop & Speedy End thereto; and bring God's Power and the Judgment thereof over them that have Offended in this Case, untill they come to unfeigned Repentance.

Consent of Parents to be first had.

And further We Advise & Exhort, that no Engagements made, without honest Endeavours to Obtain, or due Regard first had to the Counsel & Consent of Parents Relations and Friends, be Countenanced: that so all foolish & unbridled Affections, and all ensnaring & selfish Ends be not so much as found among You on any hand.

To be twice proposed at least to the Meetings (see p. 148)

and Accomplished Publickly

It is our Judgment, that for better Satisfaction to all Parties and that there may be due time for Enquiry of Clearness of the Persons Concerned, It is Convenient that Marriages be at least twice propounded to the Meetings that are to take Care therein, both to the Men's & Women's Meetings, where both are Established, before they are Accomplished; And when things are Cleared, That the Marriage be Accomplished in a grave and Publick Assembly of Friends & Relations.

1690

1690

outward Estates to be Settled before Engaged

Advised, That Parents and Guardians of Children, in the fear of God take Special Care to prevent those under their Charge, from being Engaged or Entangled with any upon the account of Marriage, before all things relating to their Outward Estates be firmly Agreed on both Parties; that so no breach may be made upon the Account of Outward things, to the hurt or Prejudice of Young People.

And We do also in the name of the Lord, Advise and Exhort all Young & Unmarried

People

1690
Young People to Consult their Parents & wait their Consent & in the first place to wait upon the Lord &c

People among Friends. That they do not make any Motion or Procedure One with Another upon the Account of Marriage, without first acquainting their Parents or Guardians therewith; and duly Waiting upon them for their Consent & agreement therein: And We do also Advise, That in the First Place All Young Persons Concerned, Seriously wait upon the Lord for Counsel & Clearneſs in this weighty Concern, before they make any Motion or Procedure with any in Order to Marriage, that the Lord may be in their Eye, so as they may not be Led by any forward, brittle, or uncertain Affections in this great Concern, to their Own hurt, Grief of their Friend, & Dishonour of Truth:

Monthly & Quarterly meetings to be Careful herein.

And Let it be the Godly Concern of both Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to be Careful & mindful of the Preservation and Good of Children in this Matter, as here proposed and Signified; And not Omit giving Due & faithful Warnings & Admonitions in this great and weighty Concern.

1691

1691
Concerning orderly proceedings

Advised, That great Care be taken about Marriages; For the Consent of Parents; Due and orderly Publication thereof; And Solemnizing of them in a Meeting appointed for that End & Purpose, or on Week Day Meetings. Which Method is Convenient and Commendable as it hasbeen lately made appear in the Eye of the Government, and well resented.

See 1675 } p. 145.
near kin.
by Priests.
mixt marriages.
& too Early a second time

And that Friends be reminded of this Meeting's former Advice, against Marriage with near Kindred; and against Marrying by Priests; and with Persons of the World, unequally yoking with Unbelievers; And against too Early and unsavory Proceedings in Second Marriages, after the Death of Husband or Wife; Contrary to the due Method or Practice of faithful Friends in Truth, and tending to the Dishonour & Reproach thereof.

1692

1692

1692
to be proposed
to two
Mon:ly meetings
or to
Two
Two Weeks
meetings

Advised That all Such as Profeſs the Truth among Friends, Do Publish their Intentions of Marriage at two Sundry Monthly Meetings at Least, or at Two Sundry Two Weeks Meetings, in Such Places where they are Settled, before they Solemnize the same; That Convenient time may be allowed Friends concerned for Enquiry, and Satisfaction, concerning the Consent of Parents and Guardians, and their Clearneſs from all Scandal and Precontracts; That Friends may Own and Stand by their proceedings before the Government and all in Authority, which Otherwise, they cannot, if they Proceed not in the Due and Orderly Publication, and method of Truth Setled among Friends; being a matter greatly Inquired into, truly Warrantable, and to be Stood by.

See 1691 }
p. 147 }
&
1675. p. 146.

1695

1695
against
marrying
with those
not of our
Profeſsion
nor
without
Consent of
parents.
nor with
near kinn.

And that all diligent Care & Caution be had, that no Friend or Friends Children, be betrayed in Affection or otherwise, Nor Join in Marriage with those who are not of our Christian Profeſsion & Society, Nor without the privity and Consent of Parents, Guardians, or lawful Tutors Intrusted with them: Nor with any near Kindred, Contrary to the Law of God, and wholsome Advice already given them; particularly by a Yearly Meetings Epistle 1675, and otherwise by the Faithfull Servants of Christ.

1707

1707

We being Sensible of the hurt that may happen by Persons under the Profeſsion of Truth, in drawing out the Affections of One another, without the Knowledge & Consent of Parents or Guardians, Do for Preventing Such Mischief Deliver it as Our Sence and Judgment, That in Case any Person reputed a Quaker shall Endeavour to Entangle

the

1707 if any Endeavour to Entangle the affection of a Young Woman without Consent of Parents not to be allowed

the Affection of any Young Woman Professing Truth, Or shall make Suit unto her in order to Marriage without the privity & Consent of her Parents or Guardians first had & Obtained, whether such Parents or Guardians be Friends or not, That such Persons ought not to be allowed or permitted to proceed in any Meeting of Friends, in order to the accomplishing such intended Marriage, until they shall have removed the Offence, and given Satisfaction both to such Parents or Guardians and to the Meeting of Friends to which they do belong, by an open & Due Acknowledgment of the Offence and Condemnation of themselves therefore, and shall have obtained the Consent of such Parents or Guardians.

Parents not to break off on Worldly Accounts.

And it is further Advised, that after Parents & Guardians have Suffered their Children to Engage One another in Affections, they do not break off upon any Worldly Account; but will wait upon and seek the Lord for their Children, in Proposals of Marriage, before they give any Encouragement thereunto.

1708.

1708 Advised to be Carefully & Zealously Concerned for our antient Christian Testimony against Mixt Marriages; That none of your Children may be Corrupted and Alienated from the Truth thereby.

1709

1709 Second Cousins. With respect to a Proposal of Marriage between Second Cousins; This Meeting declares, it is not safe for Friends to Encourage any such Marriages, in any of our Meetings.

1710

1710 We Advise, That a due Care be upon all Parents and Guardians of Children and Youth, to watch Over them, and tenderly to Exhort them to Seek the Lord in that weighty affair of Marriage, and to wait upon Him in the Light, for Counsel & Direction of his holy Spirit in that great Concern, that his Blessing may be upon

Marriage

1710 not to make the World the ground of Choice.

upon them; In Order to which Let None make the Earth & the World the ground of their Choice; For that will not procure the Bleſsing, but the Contrary; and will grieve the Lord, may Spoil Families, and bring an Exercise on the Church of Christ.

1715

1715

See plainneſs, page, 226.

1718

1718 against exceſsive Sumptuous Entertainmts.

A Testimony against Running into exceſsive Sumptuous & Costly Entertainments at Marriage Dinners; A great part of which would be better Employed in relieving the Neceſsities of the Poor.

1719

1719 Endeavours to be used to prevent mixt Marriages.

In order to put a Stop to an undue Liberty in Contracting Marriages with Such as are not of our Society, It is Advised, That all Parents and Guardians of Children, do take special Care as much as in them lieth, to prevent their Children from running into such Marriages; And that Friends of each particular Meeting, as also of the Monthly Meeting to which such Persons belong, Do in the Wisdom & Power of Truth, Use their Endeavours to put a Stop to the said Evil, by Admonishing Such as may Attempt to Marry as aforesaid, to Desist, before they Accomplish the same: But if they refuse to take Counsel, or privately go on to Marry as aforesaid, that then Such Persons be Dealt with, according to the Good Order of Truth, and Judgment fixed upon all such as take such an undue Liberty.

and if any do so Marry they are to be Dealt with.

1722

1722 Advice to Parents

Parents who have Children to Dispose of in Marriage, are tenderly Advised, Not to make it their first or chief Care to obtain for them Large Portions or Settlements of Marriage, But rather be

careful

1722 Careful that their Children be Joined in Marriag with Persons of Religious Inclinations, Sutable Disposition Temper, Sobriety of Manners, and Diligence in Busi=ness; which are things Essentially necessary to a Comfortable Life in a Married Estate: — And Carefully to guard a=gainst all mixt Marriages; and unequal Yoking of their Children therein.

agst mixt marriages

1723

1723 Children to advise with Parents or Guardians

As Parents have a Natural Right to approve of and Consent to the Marriage of their Children, So this Meeting doth earnestly Desire, That Friends Children would Consult and Advise with their Parents and Guardians in that great & weighty point, so Essen=tial to their happiness & comfort before they Set out their minds, or do Entangle their affections: The too frequent Examples that have happened to the Contra=ry thereof, have caused Lamentation in honest Parents, and great Affliction to themselves.

1724

1724. to prevent ill Designing Persons from Entangling the affections of Youth

Advised, That Care and Enquiry be seasonably made to prevent Ill Designing Persons in their Endea=vours to Entangle the Affections of our Youth in re=lation to Marriage; The unhappy Disobedience of Some therein having frequently brought deep Afflic=tion on their Tender Parents, and Misery on them=selves: And on this Occasion, We again tenderly desire, That Parents or Guardians do not make earthly Riches, a Chief view or Cause of Consent in marriage.

1727

1727 The Advice in the Year 1696, repeated,

1730

1730 W also Recommend the Good Order of Friends relating to Marriage; That it be carefully preserved and duly Maintained, in the first and Earlyest Proceedings

1730 the good order of Friends relating to marriage to be maintained

Proceedings leading thereto, as well as the Orderly Solemnization thereof: And if any Persons, contrary to the repeated Advice and Established Order of Friends, should under any Pretence whatsoever presume to take One Another in any Meeting for Worship, without the Consent of the Monthly Meeting to which they belong: Such Proceeding being of a Clandestine Nature, tending to make Void the Just Care of Friends in that Case, which is of good Esteem among the People; We Advise, That the Monthly Meeting doth not fail to Testify against the Practice, as well as against the Persons concerned therein.

1734

1734 And We do Exhort Friends every where, That in the great Concern of Marriage, whereon much of the Comfort & happineſs of Life depends, They be mindful to proceed in the fear of the Lord, and have an Eye to him for Counsel & Instruction in their Choice; the Neglect of which has been the Ruin of many Families, and tended much to the Reproach and Dishonour of our holy Profeſsion. —

1738

1738 See the Printed Epistle of 1738.

1741

1741 This Meeting having deliberately Considered the great Exercise brought upon Our Society by divers in Profeſsion with us, Who contrary to our Principles and that Wholsome Discipline established amongst Friends, Do Marry by the Priests with those not in Communion with us. And Some who both Profeſs with us Join in Marriage in the Same Manner: It's therefore earnestly Requested of all Friends, that they use their utmost Endeavour to prevent all Such Marriages, whensoever the Party's Intentions may come to their Knowledge; And that all Monthly

Those who marry by the priests to be Dealt with

Meetings

1741 Meetings where Such Marriages may happen, Immediately Deal with the Offenders for their Outgoings, and Endeavour in the Wisdom of Truth to bring them to a true Sence of their Disorderly Practice: And if the Labour of Friends Should have so good an Effect, That they in Sincerity give a Testimony under their hands, Condemning their said Practice, to the Satisfaction of the Monthly Meeting; In such Case Friends are desired to use tenderness towards them; But if the Christian Care of Friends do not prevail to bring them to a true Sence of their Error, then the Monthly Meeting is hereby Directed to give forth a Testimony against Such, for the Clearing of Truth and Friends.

And it is the Sence of this Meeting, That where any Marry Contrary to the Rules of our Society as aforesaid, their Collection shall not be received by any Meeting; Nor they be relieved in the manner of Poor Friends, Nor be admitted to Sit in Meetings of Discipline, Untill they are Restored into Unity with the Monthly Meetings to which they Formerly belonged: Yet it is not hereby intended to hinder the Charity of Friends in their private Capacities, to Extend it when & to whom they shall see meet.

1744

1744 This Meeting having deliberately Considered the great Exercise brought upon our Society by divers in Profession with us, who contrary to our known Principles, and the wholsome Discipline Established amongst us, are Joined in marriage by the Priest with Persons either of our own, or of other Perswasions, Do earnestly Advise That all Friends use their utmost Endeavours to prevent Such Marriages whensoever the Parties Inclination may come to their Knowledge.

and

1744
those who do marry in any manner Contrary to our Rules to be Dealt with

And it is the Sence and Judgment of this Meeting, That where any do Marry by the Priest or in any Other manner, contrary to the Established Rules of the Society, They shall be Dealt with in a Spirit of Christian Love and Tenderneſs, agreeable to Our known Discipline: And that after the Commiſsion of such Offence, and during such Dealing, their Collection shall not be received; Nor shall they be relieved in the manner of Poor Friends; Nor be admitted to sit in Meetings for Discipline, Untill they are Restored in to Unity with the Monthly Meeting to which they belong.

To Deal in due time with such & all other disorderly walkers.

And We earnestly Advise all Friends, that you Watch diligently over One Another for Good; and that You Deal in due Time with such Offenders, and all Others that Walk Disorderly; Endeavouring to Reclaim & Restore them by Brotherly Admonition & Counsel; But where after patient Waiting You find that your Continued Labour of Love hath not it's desired Effect; That You neglect Not to Testify against & Disown Such Persons; thereby preventing the reproach and Dishonour, which might be brought upon our holy Profeſsion thro' their Misconduct; And that the End & Deſign of Friends in Settling a wholesome Discipline among us may be anſwered.

Which is substituted in Lieu of the Minute made in 1741. respecting Marriages by Priests.

1745.

1745
See Meetings for Discipline, pa. 178.

1747

1747
against Marriages with First or second Cousins.

This Meeting, on Receiving a Minute relating to Marriage of Persons near of Kin, having taken into Consideration the Yearly Meeting Minute of 1675 made against Such Marriages, and particularly of First Cousins, Do Declare it to be our Sence

and

1747
p·145·147
See 1707 in p·149.-

and Judgment, That no Monthly Meeting or Other Meeting whatsoever, should pass First Cousins in Order for Marriage. And this Meeting Earnestly Desires all Friends whenever they know or hear of any First or Second Cousins Designing or intending to Marry, that they Immediately Advise them against it.

1748

1748
Certificates to be Stamped
This Paragraph is not to be Observed

This Meeting, in Consideration of the Expediencie of having all Our Marriage Certificates Stamped with one Five Shilling or Crown Stamp, as Marriage Certificates are required by Law to be. Desires that all monthly Meetings be very careful to see the same be Done; And also orders that a Coppy of this Minute be Sent to the Several Counties that it may be duly Observed.

1749

1749
Near of Kin
p·145·147.
p·149·148.

Upon a Proposition Received, relating to the Marriage of Persons Near of Kin; This Meeting appointed a Committee to Consider the same, who brought in the following Report, to which after being twice Read, the Meeting Agreed, Vizt. —

We your Committee appointed to Consider the Paper relating to Marriage, met Accordingly, and having Considered the same, and examined the Scriptures referred to, Are Unanimously of Opinion, That the Yearly Meeting Minutes 1675 and 1747, are to be Strictly adhered to,

13. Signed the 19th 3d mo: 1749 by 43 Friends. —

1770

1770
members not to Joyn people in marriage after ye manner of ye World

At the Yearly Meeting held at Newport Rhode Isld,

Agreed,

That if any member of our Society be found in the practice of undertaking to Joyn people in marriage after ye manner of the World (as hath been the case) that he be dealt with as a transgressor

Marriages

1772

1772

Brothers & Siſters Children not to marry with each other

It is our Sence and Judgment that our Discipline forbids the Marriage of Brothers Children Siſters Children, half Brothers Children half Siſters Children, and a first Cozen: Child, and all perſons whomsoever nearer than a Second Couſin and that they are advised to deſiſt therefrom, and if any notwithſtanding should proceed in Marriage together nearer than second Couſins being previouſly cautioned & adviſed against it, that the monthly meeting where ſuch belong give forth a publick Testimony against them, and not to receive such into Unity again untill ſuch Meetings be well aſured that they have found a place of Sincere Repentance and are receiv'd in the truth.

Perſons proposing marriage to bring a Certificate to ye first mo.ly meetg: if belonging to another meetg:

And that any Perſon coming from one Monthly Meeting to another in order to propoſe their intention of Marriage, that they bring a Certificate with them to the first Monthly Meetg: from the monthly Meeting where they belong Signifying their Parents or Guardians Conſent if they have any as well as their converſation & disentanglement with other Perſons.

1773

1773 It is our present sence and judgment, Upon the Query brought from Rhodeisland Quarter;- whether it consistant with truth for any Friends to marry with a Deceas'd wifes sister or deceased husbands Brother? - That Friends be carefull to give timely Advice and Admonition against such a procedure and if any should be reluctant thereto, and proceed in marriage, that such be

A Copy of a Minute of the Yearly Meeting held at Rhod
-Iſland in the Year 1773. taken from the Book of Diſci
-pline belonging to Smithfield Monthly Meeting ~~at the~~
~~request of~~ in order to be incerted in that ~~[illegible]~~ belonging to the Monthly
Meeting of South Kings Town. viz

" It is our present ſense & judgment upon the Query from
" Rhode Iſland Quarterly Meeting; "(Whether it be con-
" -ſistant with Truth for any Friend to marry with a de-
" -ceaſed ~~[illegible]~~ Wives Siſter, or deceaſed huſban
" ~~[illegible]~~ brother") That friend be Careful to give timel
" advice & admonition againſt such a procedure, & if any
" ſhould be reluctant thereto, & proceed in Marriage: That
" ſuch be without delay denied Membership, & Teſtified
" againſt, as having Committed an heinous ~~offen~~ tranſgreſsi
" and that ſuch be not admitted to Membership again in the
" Society until friends ſhall be well aſsured that they are recei
" ed in the truth
Copy examined &c
Signed in & by order of ~~the~~ our Quarterly Meeting held at Smithfield ~~[illegible]~~
for

for Rhode Island by adjournment the 9th of the 5th mo 177
by George Comstock Clerk

Copy of a Minute
of the Yearly Meeting
in the year 1773 —

without delay denied membership and testified against as having committed an heinous tranſgreſsion, and that such be not admitted to membership again in the Society, untill friends shall be well aſsured, that they are received in the Truth.~

1774

1774 As to the matter from Dartmouth Monthly Meeting respecting marriag with near of kin; we apprehend the Rule of the Society very clear and good in that respect, and that it outht to be Strictly Adher'd to ~ nor Dartmouth nor any other Monthly meeting suffer any to marry nearer of kin than is tolerated by the Discipline.~

1778 We have likewise conſidered the proposal on the 7th Query respecting, what time shall be supposed to be too early for proposals of marriage

It is our judgment that it is advisable for friends not to make or admit of proposals of marriage in leſs than twelve months after the decease of frmer Husband or wife.~

No 20. Concerning Meeting Houses.

1691

1691 all Meeting Houses to be Entered according to Law.

Advised. That all and every of our Meeting houses and Mansion Houses where Meetings are or may be; Be Entered upon Record as the Law Directs, each particularly; We having seen both the Service and Safety thereof, and the hurt & Danger that may come by the Omission.

1703

1703 Titles to be made Secure

Advised, That Friends in the Several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings take special Care that the Titles of Friends Meetinghouses & Burial Grounds be made Secure according to Law: This Meeting understanding there is a deficiency in this respect in Some Places.

1737

1737

Titles to be Inspected & Secured

& to keep Records thereof

It having been represented to us, that in divers parts of the Nation Losses have been sustained to Our Society, by not timely Looking into & Securing the Titles of Meeting Houses, Burial Grounds and Charitable Bequests; We have thought fit to Recommend it to the Care of Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to make timely Inspection in what Hands and Trusts the same are Secured, and if they find Occasion by the Death of any Friend or Friends, to add some Others to the Trust; So that Friends may not be deprived of the benefit of such Meetinghouses and Burial Grounds: And that Each Quarterly Meeting keep exact Records of all such Trust & Conveyances.

N:o 21: Concerning Meetings for Discipline—

1675

1675
of the
Establishm:t
of mens
& womens
meetings

It is our Judgment and Testimony in the Word of God's Wisdom, that the Rise & Practice, Setting up and Establishment of Mens & Womens Meetings in the Church of Christ in this our Generation, is According to the Mind & Counsel of God, and Done in the Ordering & Leading of his Eternal Spirit: And that is the Duty of all Friends & Brethren, in the Power of God, in all Parts to be diligent therein, and to Encourage and further Each other in that Blessed Work, and Particularly that Friends & Brethren in their respective Counties Encourage their faithful & grave Women in the Settlement of the said Meetings.

1676

1676
The
authority
&
Who have
Right
thereto.

The Power of God is the Authority of the Men's & the Women's Meetings, and of all the other Meetings.

All the Faithful Men & Women in every Country, City & Nation, whose Faith stands in the Power of God the Gospel of Christ, and have received this Gospel, and are in the Possession of this Gospel the Power of God They have all Right to the Power of the Meeting; for They be Heirs of the Power and the Authority of the Men's & Women's Meetings

1691

1691
Women's
meeting
to be
Encouraged
Settled.

Advised, to Encourage the faithful Women's Meetings, and the Settling them where they are wanting, and may with Conveniency be Settled, knowing their Service, and what need there is also of their Godly Care in the Church of Christ, in divers weighty Respects proper to them

1693

1693

To avoid Contention & Strife in all Meetings, it is the Advice and Sence of this Meeting,

1st That

Meetings for Discipline

1693 1st That all Friends have a Care of God's Glory, & be tender thereof as hath been often Advised.

2d To keep the Authority of your Meetings in the Power of God, and Unity of his blessed Spirit, whereby They were erected & Settled; And Continue your Godly Care & Services therein, for those Good Ends for which they were first Instituted.

3 To keep out all Contention, Personal Reflections and Smitings out of your Meetings; And keep down and out of all Heats & Passions, and doubtful Disputations.

Ib 4 Suffer no turbulent contentious quarelsome Spirit or Person to be Concerned among You in Ordering Your Affairs, that they may be all Managed in the peaceable tender Spirit & Wisdom of Christ Jesus.

Ib 5 Suffer no Divisions or Schisms or making Parties among Yourselves, One against another; For that will greatly tend to Weaken your Meetings and Lose their Power, and to Cause them & You to be Slighted.

Ib 6 Both our Men's and Women's Meetings, & Our Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, and Yearly Meetings, and Meetings for Sufferings, were set up in the Wisdom, Counsel, and tender Love of God; and in the same peaceable Wisdom to be kept, and Encouraged for all those good Ends for which they were intended & appointed.

See Records page 279

1696

1696 Let all your Affairs be managed in your Meetings, in the peaceable Wisdom & Spirit of Our Lord Jesus Christ; Not Striving, but bearing One with and for Another, that the Power of Christ may rest upon You and Rule in all your Assemblies.

1697

Meetings for Discipline

1697

1697 Advised, That Monthly and Quarterly Meetings keep up Our Christian Order, and Religious Discipline in the Church; that all Disorder & Looseneſs may be prevented.

1700

1700 Keep all your Meetings, as well those for Good Order, Charity & Christian Discipline, as those Set apart entirely for the Worship of God, in his Love, and in the Name Power & Peaceable Spirit of his dear Son Jesus-Christ; Which is the alone true Authority of all Our Meetings; For without Him we can do nothing. And in his bleſsed Power stand fast in righteous Judgment, over all unruly & disorderly Spirits, that would break in upon the good Order & Discipline settled among us, as well as over all those that Seek to Lay wast the Testimony of Truth, and Cause the Offence of the Croſs to Cease.

1703

1703 Our Monthly & Quarterly Meetings being Set up & Established by the Power & in the Wisdom of God, which is the Authority of those Meetings; All Friends are tenderly Desired and Advised, Carefully to keep to and in that Authority; And therein manage all the Buſineſs & Affairs of the said Meetings, in Discharge of their Duty to God and his Church; And not expect or depend upon this Meeting for Particular Direction from time to time how they ſhall proceed in the Management of the Concerns of those Meetings relating to Truth's Testimony & Service; But wait for & Depend upon the Power & Wisdom of God, for Cousel & Direction in such matters & Cases as may come before them; Which will be to the great Ease of this Meeting, and dispatch of the proper Concerns thereof.— And Let the Man's part & natural Wisdom and Attainments be Subject to the Power & Spirit of God, which will truly Edify the Body in Love, Righteouſneſs & Peace

not to depend upon the Y: Meetg: for direction but upon the power & wisdom of God.

And.

Meetings for Discipline

Such as Decline to be Dealt with

1703 And if any decline from or Let fall any Branch of their Testimony, that Such may in the Wisdom & Authority of Truth be Dealt with, and therein Mercy and Judgment Exercised in their proper Places.

1704

1704 We tenderly Recommend & Desire that those Friends that are concerned in the Mangement of the Affairs of the Church, in the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings be Careful to Act in the Wisdom of God, that they may be Examplary therein to those that are Young: And that those that are worthy to be Esteemed Members of those Meetings, be diligent in attending the same; and that they will Encourage Such Young Men & Women as they are sensible are qualified, and made Capable thro' waiting upon God, to Serve Truth in your respective Meetings, that they may come up & Stand in the Life of Righteouſness to be Serviceable in the Church helpful to antient Friends, and fitted to Supply their Places as Such shall be Removed.

1705.

1705 Tis Advised and desired, that in all Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, Friends take great Care to manage the Affairs of Truth in a Calm meek & Gentle Spirit, without Heats Discord & Contention; "For if any seem to be contentious, we have no such Custom in the Churches of God. 1 Cor: 11: 16." And the Apostle's advice also was, "That nothing shold be done thro' Strife or vain Glory; But in Lowlineſs of Mind let each esteem other better than themselves; And do all things without Murmurings and Disputings Philip: 2: 3 & 14." Which Apostolical Counsel and good Order We desire may be kept to & Carefully Observed.

1706

1706 Advised to keep all Meetings, both those for divine Worship, and those for good Order and Discipline in the

the

1706 the Church in the Name & Power of Our Lord Jesus Christ; which divine Power we all ought to wait to feel to prepare and Sanctifie Our Minds & Spirits that we may be duly Qualified for our Share and Part of our Service therein And in the Same heavenly Power & Dominion Labour to keep out Strife & Contention, and Stand over all froward and Contentious Spirits, not in your Own, but in the Meek Spirit of the Lamb of God.

See Questions page, - 270

1707

1707 Our Women's Meetings being set up & Approved in the Love of God, and by his Wisdom & Power, & of manifest Service & helpful in the Church; It is the earnest Desire & Advice of this Meeting, they may be upheld & Encouraged where they are Settled by Monthly & Quarterly Meetings and that in such Counties & Places where they are not, it be the Care of the Quarterly Meetings to Endeavour they may be set up & Encouraged in proper & Convenient Places, where they may be most Serviceable and helpful

Women's Meeting to be Encouraged

1709

1709 This Meeting desires that the Accounts of the Prosperity of Truth &c. that are brought in writing from the several Quarterly Meetings to this Meeting, be signed at or by order of the Quarterly Meeting.

1713

1713 See Preachers page, 252

1715.

Agreed, That no Monthly Meeting shall be allowed

1715 to divide it Self into Two Separate Monthly Meetings, either by reason of the Decrease Love, or any other Differance amongthem in that Meeting, without the Consent or Concurrence of the Quarterly Meeting.

no Monthly meeting to Divide it Self

And Let None Exercise Rule or Government in the Church as Elders or Overseers, but such who are Unblameable in Conversation and Example, free from

Elders & overseers

Covetousneſs

Meetings for Discipline

1715 Elders & Overseers. Covetousness, over-reaching Oppression & Extortion &c.
Persons of good Report, even among those who are with-
out; following those things so earnestly recommended
by the holy Apostles Paul and Peter. Philip. 2: 3:
" Let nothing be done thro' Strife and vain Glory, but
" in Lowliness of mind Let each esteem Other better than
" themselves. 1 Pet.r 5. 2: 3. Feed the Flock of God which is
" among You, taking the Oversight thereof not by constraint
" but willingly, not for filthy Lucre, but of a ready
" Mind, neither as being Lords over God's Heritage,
" but being Examples to the Flock.

See Meetings for Worship page 186.

1717

1717 Recommended, That Friends, but more Especially Such as are concerned in Meetings of Business, Do Labour to know their own Spirits Subjected by the Spirit of Truth, that thereby being Baptised into one Body, they may be truly one in the Foundation of their Love & Unity; And that therin they may all Labour to find a nearness to Each Other in Spirit; This being the true Way to a through Reconciliation wherever there is or may have been any Difference of Apprehension; thereby Friends will be preserved in that Sweetness of Spirit, that is and will be the Bond of true Peace throughout all the Churches of Christ.

1718

1718 Advised, That nothing be done thro' Strife & Contention or in vain Glory, murmuring or disputing but in the Spirit of Meekness Love & Humility, carry yourselves toward One another: And the Younger Brethren endeavour to know their Places, as Living Members of one Body; and preserve a due regard to their Elders in Christ Jesus.

1719

Meetings for Discipline

1719

1719 Wrath &c. to be kept down

Advised, in a particular Manner when Aſsembled for the Affairs of the Church. That the Wrath of Man, — which worketh not the Righteousneſs of God, may be kept down, together with all Exaltedneſs of Spirit; and that on the contrary, the Meekneſs and Wisdom of the Lord may govern all Friends, and they in that carry on & perform the Affairs of the Church; whereby the many & great Evils which attend Wrath and Exaltedneſs will be Supprest and prevented.

Epistles & accounts to be read & approv'd before Signed

And it is desired, that the Epistles & Accounts of the Affairs of Truth sent to this Meeting from Yearly, Quarterly, and Monthly Meetings, may if poſsible be read and approved in the respective Meetings from whence they are sent, before they be Signed on behalf of the Meetings.

And See Yearly Meeting, page. 409.

1722

1722

Advised, To a Cementing in a very Close & Brotherly Fellowship one with another in the divine Spirit; and therein watch against all Occasion of Discord or breach of Unity, in any Quarterly, Monthly or Particular Meeting, to the End Sion may continue a quiet Habitation, the Glory and Presence of God rest & remain on her & the Spirit & Doctrine of the Gosple may be lived in and maintained.

And he also recommend, that such Friends as are concerned in the Affairs of the Church, in the Quarterly Monthly or Particular Meetings, be Careful to Act therein in the Wisdom of God; whereby they will be Examplary to the Young, who may be esteemed Members thereof & attend the same; And as such Young Persons are found to be qualified with a real Sence of Truth upon their Spirits, and Subjection thereunto, and thereby made Capable to come up to a Service in their respective Meetings, Friends are deſired to Encourage and

bring

1722 bring them forward therein; whereby they may be helpful to the Antients, and brought up in a Life of Righteousness to walk and Act to the Praise of God's holy Name And Standing in their Lot will Supply the place of the Elders in such Meetings, thro' the same Spirit, when they are gone.

1724

1724 Advised, That Friends in Meetings of Business, watch over their own Spirits, that no indecent warmth get in, whereby the Understanding may be hurried and hindred from a regular Judgment on the affairs before the Meeting.

1726

1726 The former Advice in 1722, to avoid all Occasions of Discord, repeated. ——

We earnestly recommend to You, whatever Your Places & Stations in the Church may be, That in the most weighty & serious manner You often Call to remembrace, in all Humility of mind What it was that brought us to be a People, and what is & will be That which will preserve Us such; That the Foundation on which a true Christian is built, is the Spirit of Christ; Let this therefore Direct you in all things, both respecting your private Conversation, and whatever you do for God in his Church: This is the only true Means to preserve you holy & Blameless in the One, as well as serviceable & useful in the Other: In this every one will have a Single regard to the Service that comes before him in Monthly & Quarterly Meetings without partiality or respect of Persons: ——

= Hear the Causes between your Brethren, and Judge
= Righteously between every Man and his Brother;
= And the Stranger that is with him. Ye shall not
= Respect Persons in Judgment; But you shall hear
= the Small as well as the great; You shall not be
= afraid of the face of Man, for the Judgment is Gods.
= Deut: 1:16·17. —— And in the management of

Such affairs they will find their own Spirits rightly Seasoned —

1726 Seasoned and prepared for every Work & Service to which
they may be called; And all disorderly Proceedings Ari-
=sing from the heat of Our own Spirits will thereby be
Shut out. and thus the Church will be preserved on her
antient solid and permanent Foundation, to the Glory
of God, and her own Quiet and Comfort.

1727

Ordered to acquaint the Quarterly Meetings,
1727 That 'tis the mind of this Meeting, that all Minutes
and Epistles from this Meeting be Enter'd & kept by them
in a fair Book, that all Friends of their Counties or
Meetings may have Recourse to them as Occasion
shall Require. ——

This Meeting understanding it to have been the Antient
and constant Sence of Friends in the Exercise of the Disci-
=pline that is Established amongst us, That any Person
Denied by a monthly Meeting is adjudged as Disowned
by Friends, and to stand and remain in that State, till
by his repentance, or the Reversal of such Censure by a
Superior Meeting, he is reconciled to Friends, or reinsta-
=ted in membership among them: with which this
meeting hath Unity, and therefore Ratifies & Confirms
the same.

See Morning Meeting of Ministers, page, 195.

1730

And for as much as divers Failures in respect to
1730 Insolvency have happened by Persons of Other Stations*
* See- in the Church, This Meeting Declares it as their Judg-
Correspondts =ment, That no such Persons shall appear in publick as
p 77. Ministers, or Sit or Act in any Affair of our Two Weeks,
Monthly or Quarterly Meetings, till they have given
Insolvents Such Meetings they belong to Satisfaction:—And
that Friends in their respective Meetings take
due care to Deal with all Such Persons in a regular
Way-

Meetings for Discipline

1730 Way, agreeable to the Discipline of the Church already Established among Friends, by publickly manifesting their disunity with such Person or Persons, agreeable to the nature and Circumstance of the Case.

'Tis recommended to all Quarterly & Monthly Meetings to Watch Carefully over their Members, that so where any Root of Bitterneſs shall appear that would bring forth Envy, Strife Emulation & Hatred, and thereby Our holy Unity in the Spirit be broken, They do use timely and earnest Endeavours to prevent and remove the same, Whereby We may be preserved a People to the Glory of God, and in that perfect Love and Unity which will demonstrate us to be the Disciples of Christ

1731

1731 Advised, That Friends every where in an especial manner, take care to keep up the good Order & Discipline of monthly & Quarterly Meetings, in that Spirit of Love and Divine Wisdom in which they were at First Constituted, that therein every thing may be managed to the praise of God, and the Preservation of his Church and People within the Bounds & Limits of his bleſsed Truth. This we are Sensible has been a Means, under divine direction, to keep many hurtful things out of the Church; and therefore we are sincerely Concerned that nothing may weaken the hand of Friends in this good Work; but that it may be carried on for the Support of our Christian Testimony in all it's Branches.

1732

1732 Advised that Young Friends who are Sober & well inclined, be Encouraged to attend the Service of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings; And that all Friends in such Meetings wait to feel the Power of Truth, that their minds being seasoned with the Virtue thereof, the Wholesome Discipline of the Church may be maintained and continued from One Generation to another, for the help of such as are Weak.

and

1732 Dealing with Offenders

And for the Dealing with all Persons Offending, We Recommend, That Friends in their said Meetings be careful to Labour in the Spirit of Love & Meekness, regularly and impartially for the help and reclaiming of all such; And if after such Labour of Love, there appears no ground to hope for Repentance; and the Case be of a Scandalous reproachful Nature, that they proceed to Testify against such Practices, and those who are concerned therein

none to be Disowned without Dealing

That no Monthly Meeting disown or Testify against any of their Members, without first Dealing with Such Offenders, where Such Offenders can be Conveniently met with or Spoke to.

Papers to the Yearly Meeting, to be signed. See Yearly Meeting. page. 410.

1733

1733

Tithes, &c

Justice

Plainness

Monthly Meetings to appoint Fr.ds to Visit Families

This Meeting being under a Weighty Concern & Exercise to observe that the many wholesome Advises recommended from Year to Year, are in two many Places either neglected or not enough Practised. Particularly those against Tithes, Church Rates so Called, and Priests Maintainnance; also keeping up to Justice in Dealing, Plainness of Habit & Speech, and several Other Branches of our Christian Testimony: We therefore again Recommend to Friends in their several Monthly Meetings to take special Care to appoint proper prudent & Judicious Friends to visit their Brethren in their Families pursuant to former advice, Viz.t in the Epistle 1708+ and 1729# herewith sent you; And that such Friends Labour faithfully in a Spirit of Love, and in the Meekness of Wisdom, to convince the Judgments of their respective Members of the Necessity of their coming up with their Brethren in Practice agreeable to our Christian Principle, that so the

several

+ See the Paragraph 1708. under the Head Families. p. 117

See 1729 under the heads Families, p. 117. & Trading p. 395

Meetings for Discipline

1733 Several Branches of the Testimony which Truth hath given our Antients & Us to bear may be Maintained unviolated: And We do herewith also send the Minutes of this Meeting of 1675.+ 1703.÷ & also 1706.# so far as they are relative thereto; and desire you may record them in your Quarterly & Monthly Meeting Book, that you may have recourse thereto on all Occasions; And We also Advise that the same be read frequently in our Meetings for Business, that Friends may be fully informed of them.

diligently to attend meetings for Discipline

And Dear Friends, as the Promotion of Piety and Charity is the End and intent of our Meetings for the Discipline of the Church A weighty Concern remains upon us, That Friends be Careful diligently to attend those Meetings; and when there to Act in the Wisdom given them of God, with a real & living Sense of Truth upon their Spirits. that so the Affairs of the Church may be carried on in brotherly Love and in that sweet Calm & Christian disposition of Mind, which tends to the Mutual Comfort & Edification One of another, and of the Church in general.

1734

Younger Friends to be Encouraged

1734 Whereas the number of Friends attending the Service of the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings for the Discipline of the Church is but small in some Places, We desire, that Elders would give all due Encouragement to such Younger Friends as they Observe to be Religious & Sober in their Conversation, to attend the Service of those Meetings; that so being inured to the management of the Affairs of the Church in the Company of their Elders, they may be the better Qualified to Succeed them therein, and to Supply their Places & Service when removed 1735

+ See 1675 under the Head Tithes p. 365.

÷ 1703 under the same — p. 369.

# 1706 under the same — p. 370.

1735

1735 Propositions to the Yearly Meeting to be signed
See Yearly Meeting, page 412.
See also Discipline. page. 101 & 102.

1736

1736 And Dearly beloved Friends & Brethren, We desire
you to Encourage Such Youth as are regular & Sober in
youth to be Encouraged &c. their Conversation, to frequent Our Monthly & Quarterly
Meetings that they may See the Care which is taken for
the maintenance of Our Poor, and the Preservation of
Our Christian Discipline; And thereby become more useful in their respective Meetings, and to the Church in General: And We tenderly intreat that you would both by
to attend meetings for Worship Word & Example excite them to a Diligent attendence of
Our Meetings for Worship, not only on the First Days,
but also on the other Days of the Week.

See Appeals p. 3.

1737

1737 And Dear Friends, that the Affairs of Our Society may continue to be managed in the meek & Peaceable Wisdom of Truth, Let the Elders of each Monthly Meeting have an Eye upon the Younger and Consider their Conversations Qualifications & Groth in the Truth, and invite such as are Sober and hopeful, to the Meetings for Business and the Affairs of the Church, that They may Learn and improve in the Knowledge of the Discipline of the Church, and become Instrumental to the Service of God, His Truth & People.

1738

1738. And as much as in you lies, take Care that the Business of your Monthly Meetings be managed by Persons who are well grounded in the Principles of Truth; and beware of Committing the Management

thereof

1738 thereof to such as know not their own Spirits season-ed by the work of Truth in themselves; But where You Observe any Young Persons of a grave & Solid Deportment, and inclinable to be helpful in the Church, discourage them not, but Endeavour to bring them forward in the Service of Truth, according to their respective Abilities for so Weighty a Work.

1740

1740. See Records, page, 281.

1741

1741. See Poor page, — 245

1743

1743. Agreed that when a Quarterly Meeting have come to a Judgment respecting any Difference relative to any Monthly Meeting belonging to them, and Notified the same in Writing to such Monthly Meeting; the said Monthly Meeting ought to Submit to the Judgment of the Quarterly Meeting: And if such Monthly Meeting shall not be Satisfied therewith, then the Monthly Meeting may Appeal to the Yearly Meeting against the Judgment & Determination of their Quarterly Meeting

Monthly Meeting to Submit to the Judgment of the Quarterly Meeting

And if a Monthly Meeting shall refuse to take the Advice, and Submit to the Judgment of the Quarterly Meeting; and notwithstanding will not Appeal against the Determination of the said Meeting to the Yearly Meeting; In such Case it is Our Opinion, the Quarterly Meeting shall be at Liberty, either to Diſsolve such Monthly Meeting or bring the Affair before the next or Succeeding — Yearly Meeting

In Case they do not. &c

And in Case a Quarterly Meeting shall Diſsolve a Monthly Meeting, The Diſsolved Monthly Meeting, or any part thereof in the name

of

1743

If a Quarterly meeting do dissolve a monthly meeting

of the said Meeting, shall be at Liberty to Appeal to the next, or Succeeding Yearly Meeting against such Diſsolution: But if the Diſsolved Monthly Meeting, or a part thereof in it's behalf shall not Appeal to the Yearly Meeting; It is then Our Opinion, that the Quarterly Meeting shall Join the Members of the said late Monthly Meeting to such Other Monthly Meetings, as they may think most Convenient; And untill such time, shall take Care that no Inconvenience doth thereby Ensue to the Members of such diſsolved Meeting, respecting any Branch of our Discipline. And if any of the Monthly Meetings to which the Quarterly Meeting shall Join the whole or a Part of the Late Monthly Meeting, Do think themselves Aggrieved. They shall be at Liberty to Appeal against the Quarterly Meeting to the Yearly Meeting; And untill such appeal is heard and Determined, the Friends Added by the Quarterly Meeting to them shall be deemed their Members.

any monthly meeting aggrieved may appeal

And Dear Friends, in the Love of Christ We earnestly beseech & Exhort You to watch diligently over the Flock of God, and to Deal in due time and in a Spirit of Christian Love and Tenderneſs, with all such as Walk disorderly among You, in Order to reclaim & restore them by brotherly Admonition & Counsel; And where after Patient Waiting, You find that your Christian Labour of Love hath not it's desired Effect, You neglect not to Testify against and Disown such Persons; and thereby prevent the Reproach & Dishonour which may be brought upon Our holy Profeſsion thro' their means; and that the End and Deſign of Friends in Settling wholesome Discipline among us may be Answered; — The want of this has, as we apprehend brought great Difficulties on some Meetings; For We think It

to Deal in due time with Disorderly Walkers

Meetings for Discipline

1743 It both unseasonable and dishonourable, when Persons Apply to Monthly Meetings on Account of Marriage, Or for Relief in Case of Necessity, to Object to them then Such Offences, as the Meeting through Neglect of their Own Duty, did long before Suffer to pass unreproved.

See Preachers, page. 258.

1744

1744 Womens meetings On a Proposition for the Encouragement of Womens Meetings for Discipline; which this Meeting taking into Serious Consideration, think it Our Duty to Recommend to the Several Counties the following Minutes of former Yearly Meetings relating thereto; Desiring Friends in each Monthly Meeting carefully to See the same put in Practice; Viz.t 1675, 1691, and 1707. — (which see at Length in pages. 163. & 167.)

See Law page, 138.
See Marriage page, 153: 154
Se Talebearing pag.

1745

1745 To Encourage womens meetings And Dear Friends, We find it Our Concern to Repeat the Exhortation we gave last Year, That Friends in all Places would Encourage the Service of the Meetings of Faithful Women; and that the Quarterly Meetings would help and Assist Such Women Friends in Setting up Monthly Meetings wherein they may wait for Divine Wisdom to give proper Advice to those of their own Sex.

marriage, to be laid before them And that Proceedings in relation to marriage be laid before Such Meetings of Women, and the Clearness and Conversation of the Persons concerned Enquired into by them: which method we apprehend, will render our grave & Solid Women Help meets to the brotherhood in the Discipline of the Church, and conduce to the Edification & Comfort of the Body.

and

Meetings for Discipline

1745 And: Dear Friends, We desire that your Several Monthly Meetings, where any School Masters or Mistreſses of our Profeſsion may reside, would not be wanting to Admonish them, as much as in them lies, to bring up the Children of Friends, Committed to their Care, in plainneſs of Speech, Behaviour and Apparrel, agreable to our Profeſsion; And that Such of them as have Boarders in their Families would frequently Call them together, and accustom them to a Solemn Reading of the holy Scriptures, & to preſs & excite them to the Obſervation of the Christian Precepts therein Contained; And that they themselves Walk before their Scholars as Examples of that Plainneſs and Simplicity which they recommend.

School masters or mistreſses

See Appeals, page, 4.

1747 1747 See Discipline, page, 103.

See Marriage, page, 154

1748 1748 See the Same, page, 155

1751 1751 See Discipline pa. 105

No. 22. Concerning Meetings for Worship

1675

publick meetings for Worship to be kept up as an open Testimony for the Lord

1675 That as it hath been our Care and Practice from the begining, that an Open Testimony for the Lord should be born, and a publick Standard for Truth & Righteousness upheld in the Power & Spirit of God, by our Open and known Meetings, against the Spirit of Persecution that in all Ages hath sought to Lay wast Gods Heritage; And that only thro' Faithfulness Constancy & Patience, Victory hath been & is Obtained; So it is Our Advice and Judgment, That all Friends gathered in the Name of Jesus keep up these publick Testimonies in their respective Places, and not Decline forsake or Remove their publick Assemblies because of times of Sufferings, as Worldly fearful & politick Professors have done, because of Informers and the like Persecutors; For such Practices are not Consistant with the Nobility of Truth, and therefore not to be Owned in the Church of Christ

1678

To be Zealous & Diligent in Assembling Together in times of Tryal;

1678 And by how much the more it is a Day of Tryal and an hour of Temptation, Forsake Ye not the Assembling of Yourselves together, but by so much the more be Zealous & Diligent in keeping all Your Meetings; both publick Meetings, and your Men's & Women's Meetings, in the Lord's everlasting Power by which they were Set up: And as you are found diligent & stedfast in the Work of the Lord, the God of Peace will Suddenly tread down Satan under Your feet, and plentifully reward into all Your bosoms, your patience & perseverance, with the durable Blessings Peace & Joy of that Kingdom which was before the World began, and that never shall have End.

1689

1689 Let every One be watchful against an earthly Spirit getting up in any, for that will Choak the good

Seed

1689 Seed, and bring forth a Slighting or Neglecting your Testimony in your First Days and Week Days Meetings and bring a Decay of your Strength & Zeal for God & his Truth, and bring a Weakneſs upon You; by reason whereof Such will not be able to Stand in an hour of Temptation.

1691

1691 keep up week day meetings 'Tis tenderly Advised, for the Lord's Sake, & his Bleſsed Name & Truth's Sake, That Friends be diligent in keeping their Week-Day Meetings as duly as on First Days, in his Worship & Service.

1696

1696 Agreed That Friends be reminded that Live distant from Meetings, to keep Meetings in their Families, to wait upon God, that their Children and Families may come to be Seasoned in their Spirits by the Truth and the Lords Power, and that they may have his Bleſsing upon their Families.

1697

1697 Advised, Duly to keep up Week-day Meetings

1706

1706 See Meetings for Discipline, page, 166.

1715

1715 Advised, That all Friends be careful to attend Meetings for Worship and Buſineſs, at the Times & hours appointed, as near as they poſsibly may; And not to detain Meetings Out of Season.

1716

1716 not to oppose one another Advised, to have a godly Care of Judging or Contradicting One Another in publick Meetings, or shewing any Marks or Signs of Division therein among Ministers or Others: That being of a very pernicious Consequence, to bring blame or Contempt upon the Ministry; a great hurt to our Youth & others.

1718

1718

1718 Advised, That all Friends be Examplary in Seasonable & constant keeping to Week Day Meetings, as well as First Days, and such as have Children & Families in bringing them as much as may be with them, that they may be good Examples to the Flock therein, and not by their Indifferency & negligence be a Stumbling Block in the way of Others.

1723

1723 Advised, That Friends keep their Children to a Constant seasonable and Orderly frequenting as well of Week-Days as of First-Day Meetings; Instructing them to have their Minds Stayed in the Divine Gift, to wait upon the Lord therein to Receive a Portion with them of his Spiritual Favours; that they from the tendering Virtue of the holy Spirit may be Engaged in heart and mind to walk worthy of so great Grace; And in an holy Zeal to honour God, Submit to bear the Cross, Endure the Shame and become publick Witnesses for him amongst the Sons of Men.

See Preachers, page, 253, 254,

1724

1724 Advised, That Friends, tho' Meetings are sometimes held in Silence, would not Neglect their attendence at those Meetings; For the hungry Soul will Labour for Bread, and the thirsty for the water of Life, and the diligent hand will make Rich in that Treasure that is of an Enduring Substance.

1725

1725 In your Religious Meetings for the Worship of God, both on the First and Other Days of the Week be diligent in waiting on him in his Spirit, whereby you may renew your Strength and witness

Him

1725 Him your sufficient help, for sure many of Us have Cause thankfully to remember his early Visitations in the Assemblies of his People, where he broke in upon our hearts with the Power and Love, and did in the needful time administer Help Comfort & Cousel, whereby We have in the renewings thereof been upheld in a faithful Testimony, and in the Discharge of our Duty to him.

1729.

1729 We again recommend the Advice given in the Year 1723.

1732

1732 Advised, That all Friends who are Masters and Heads of Families, be very careful in attending and bringing their Children & Servants to Meetings, both on First Days and other days of the Week.

1733

1733 And as the First Day of the Week is set apart for the publick Worship of Almighty God, 'Tis our earnest Advice, That Friends exhort and Encourage their Children and Families to be diligent in the attending Meetings for Worship; and to behave themselves there with Seriousness and Gravity, as becomes the Professors of Christianity, and to be regardful of the good Counsel and Admonitions of those whose Mouths the Lord may be pleased to Open in the Work of the Ministry: And that Parents would be Examplary to their Children in closely attending Meetings, not only on the First Days, but as much as in them lies, on other Days of the Week also, in which respect We cannot but with Grief observe, too many appear Remiss.

1734

1734

1734 And Dear Friends, We desire that You would Excite & Stir up Your Children to a diligent Attending the First Day and Week Day Meetings and be Examplary Yourselves therein, not in a meer formal & customary Attendance, but in a Serious & diligent waiting upon the Lord; for as Formality in Worship Occasioned the Lord to Complain of his People in Days of Old, That they drew near to him with their mouths, and with their Lips did honour him, but had removed their Hearts far from Him. Isa: 29: 13. So We have reason to fear that the Same Formality has been one Cause of that great Declension from the Purity & Spirituallity of Gospel Worship, which is too apparent among many of the Profeſsors of Christianity.

Caution against Formality

And in as much as it hath pleased the Lord to Concern Some amongst Us, as Instruments in his hand, to travel to & fro for the Preaching & Spreading of the Gospel; We Advise that where Meetings for Worship are Settled, when any Such are concerned to Visit You; you would give Notice thereof to your sober & well Inclined Neighbours, that they may have an Oppertunity to hear the Testimony of Truth declared; A Means which the Lord hath been often pleased to make use of, for the gathering many out of the World unto himself, through the Power of the Word of Life faithfully Preached.

1735

1735 As it hath pleased the Lord in his great Mercy & Goodneſs to favour the faithful among his People, not only in Such publick Aſsemblies as these, but also in their Small retired Meetings in the Country every where with the Lifting up of the Light of his Countenance upon them, by which they are greatly Encouraged to meet often together to think upon his Name, and as He shall move any thereunto, to speak one unto another to their mutual Edification & Comfort. We take this Opportunity to renew Our former Advices, That Friends in their

1735 be diligent in attending Meetings for Worship

their several Counties and Places, be diligent in attending religious Meetings for the Worship of God, not only on First Days but on other Days of the Week, and as near as may be at the time Appointed, there being by accounts brought into this Meeting from some Places, a great Neglect in this respect, which we have reason to believe is owing to a being over Charged with the Cares of this Life, the Deceitfulness of Riches, and the Love of other things, which Choaks the good Seed, so that Love to Religion and the Worship of God decays & grows cold.

1736

1736 See Meetings for Discipline page, 175

1738

1738 See Preachers, page, 257.

1739

1739. The Advice in 1738, again recommended; See the Printed Epistle.

1770. at a Yearly Meetg a Newport. Rhd

Advised.

That where it shall appear upon due inspection made that any Member shall or do neglect or omit the due attendance of their Meetings, through Sloth, indolence, love of the World, or luke warmness in Religion, that each monthly Meeting take care that all such be timely Visited in Love & acquainted with the mind & desire of Friends in that case and admonished to Faithfulness therein, and if notwithstanding the due Christian labour and admonition, he, she, or they shall continue in the said neglect or omission, if a Minister his

The negligent to be visited in Love, & admonished to Faithfulness

1770. his or her publick Testimony be denied, and if an Elder, he or she be dismised from that Station.

No. 23. Concerning the Moring Meeting of Ministers.

1675

1675 See Sufferings, page, 347.

1697

1697 See Yearly Meeting, page, 407.

1706

1706 See Books — page, - 28.

1707

1707 See Yearly Meeting, page, 408

1723

It is the Unanimous Agreement of this Meeting
1723 That it does not belong to the Morning Meeting, or any
no Meeting of ministers to Disown any Other Meeting of Ministers, to Disown any Minister or
other Person, But that the Sole Right of so doing belongs
to Monthly, Quarterly, Half Yearly, or Yearly Meetings.. See further, page, 197

1727

1727 A Proposition from the Friends of Wiltshire, relating to the extending a Care in Friends, to Young Ministers, &c, being Read; This Meeting desires all Monthly Meetings to appoint Serious discect and Judicious Friends, Who are not Ministers, tenderly to Encourage & help Young Ministers, and advise others, as they in the Wisdom of God See Occasion: And where there are Meetings of Ministring Friends, Such Friends so chosen be admitted as Members of such Meetings of Ministers, and Act therein for the good Purposes aforesaid.

1732

1732 See Books. page, - 29.

1735

Morning Meeting of Ministers

1735

1735 — Meetings of Ministers may advise Rebuke &c — It is our Unanimous Sence & Opinion, That the Morning Meeting of London, or any other Meeting of Ministers, have a Right as they see Meet, in the Wisdom of Truth, to advise Exhort & Rebuke any of their Members, or any Ministers who may Travel in the Work of the Ministry, as occasion may require without being Accountable for the same to any Monthly or Quarterly Meeting.

But if any Member of the said Meetings, or any Other Minister, should at any time be overtaken with a fault, and the Same be under the Cognizance of the Morning or other Meeting of Ministers, and the Monthly Meeting to which such Person belongs shall also Deal with him or her for the Same; that then on notice from such Monthly Meeting that they have taken the Case under their Care & Serious Consideration, all Proceedings of the Morning or other Meeting of Ministers against such Minister or Elder shall be Finally Stopt.

no power to Disown any — And We are of Opinion, That the Morning Meeting, or other Meeting of Ministers, have no Power to disown any Minister or Other Person in any Capacity whatsoever; the Sole Right of so doing belonging to Monthly, Quarterly, Half Yearly or Yearly Meetings.

And it is Our Sence & Opinion, That Such discreet & Judicious Friends who are deputed Elders by the respective Monthly Meetings of London, are to be allowed Members of the Morning Meeting, tenderly to Encourage & help Young Ministers, and advise Others as they shall see Meet, in the Wisdom of God, for the good purposes specified in the Minute of the Yearly Meeting 1727

Second Days Morning Meeting preceeding the Yearly Meeting. See Yearly Meeting p. 412

Part of the Minute in 1723. Omitted Viz:

1723 ___ And that no Persons name from and after the Eighth Day of the Seventh Month next, be Entered in the Morning Meeting Book of Ministring Friends as a Minister, till he or She produces a Certificate from the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to which he or She shall belong.

1760

1760 At the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island it was agreed and concluded that the following Method for constituting Meetings of Ministers & Elders should be here Aded.

1st That in Each Monthly Meeting some Solid Friends of either or both Sexes be appointed for Each particular Meeting as Elders to have the Oversight of the Ministry, and to Advise & Counsel both the Ministers at home and Such who Travel amongst them as they in the Wisdom of Truth may see Necessary.

2d That the Ministers in Unity, and the Elders so appointed within the Compass of Each Monthly Meeting, Meet by themselves Once in Three Months, and wait to feel their Minds seasoned with the Virtue of Truth, and then Read the Queries, and make diligent Enquiry into the State of their members, & form such answers thereto as appears agreeable to their States; the said Answers to be signed by their Clerk, and some Friends appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers & Elders therewith, Where the Queries are again to be read & answered; and at the Quarterly Meeting preceeding the Yearly Meeting that General answers in Writing be Drawn up and Transmitted from thence to the Yearly Meeting, of Ministers & Elders, by Friends appointed to Attend the Same, and that the Ministers in Unity & Elders appointed, as above directed, shall be only deemed proper Members of said meetings.

3 That where any Friends come forth by way of publick ministry, That the Elders and those of Experience have a Tender Care over them and after a Sutable time of Tryal if their Conversations be Clean & Blameless, & Friends are Convinced that the Lord hath Called them to that Weighty Work, That then the Monthly Meeting to which they belong, Do recommend them to the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers (by a minute signed by the Clerk) and that they then may sit in the Meetings of Ministers & Elders.

Morning Meeting of Ministers.

1770 Advised. to have at each general Meetg
a Select Meeting both at the begining & End
of every such Meetg and a committe appoin
=ed to have the oversight of such Meetings
& make report to the select Meetg then in
being; and also to the Yearly Meeting of Minis
=ters & Elders annually at Newport.

a Committee
to be appoint
to have yᵉ
oversight of
Yearly Meetg

1781

1781 The Select Yearly meeting, proposeth to this meeting that the said Select meeting may begin for the future on Fourth day at the 10th hour, in the week the yearly meeting is to be held:- accordingly it is approved of, and directed to be held at that time.

1710 Se page 107 Concerning Members Not Attending their Meeting

No. 24. Concerning Mourning.

1717.

1717 According to the primitive Innocency & Simplicity of Friends. It is the Advice of this Meeting. That No Friends imitate the World in any distinction of Habit or otherwise, as Marks or Tokens of Mourning for the Dead.

1718.

1718. Advice against Men and Women imitating the World in making a Shew of Mourning for the Dead. in their Apparrel.

1724.

1724 A Caution against imitating the vain Custom of wearing or giving Mourning, and all Extravagant Expences about the Interment of the Deceased.

1745

1745 And Whereas a Custom hath of late prevailed with some amongst us, of wearing Mourning at the Funerals of their Relations, contrary to the antient Practice, and repeated Advice of Friends; Tis desired that Friends everywhere would discourage such a Custom: And such Publick Friends whose Company may be desired at Funerals, are requested to signify to the Persons Concerned, the uneasiness & difficulty they are put under by reason of such Appearances, which by their presence they may be supposed to Countenance.

Admiſsion of Members

1777 Se page 96 under Discipline

Negroes -

No 25 - Concerning Importing Negroes

1727

1727 It is the Sence of this Meeting, That the Importation of Negroes from their Native Country and Relations by Friends, is not a Commendable nor Allowable Practice; and that Practice is Censured by this Meeting.

1760

1760 At the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode-Island it was agreed & concluded that the Following Paragraph from the Yearly Meeting Epistle from London A^d 1758 should be here Inserted. -

To avoid Dealing in Negroes or Other Slaves

We fervently Warn all in Profession with us, that they be Careful to avoid being anyways Concerned in reaping the unrighteous Profits arising from that Iniquitous Practice of Dealing in Negroes or other Slaves, Whereby in the Original Purchase one Man Selleth another as he doth the Beast that perishes, without any better pretention to a property in him than that of Superiour Force; in Direct Violation of the Gospel Rule, which teaches every one to do as they would be done by, and to do good unto all being the reverse of that Covetous Disposition, which furnishes Encouragement to those poor Ignorant People to perpetuate their Savage Wars, in Order to Supply the Demands of this most unnatural Traffick, whereby great numbers of Mankind, free by Nature are Subjected to inextricable Bondage; and which hath often been Observed to fill their Possessors with Haughtiness, & Tyranny Luxury & Barbarity, Corrupting the Minds & Debasing the Morals of their Children, to the unspeakable prejudice of Religion & Virtue, and the exclusion of that holy Spirit of Universal Love Meekness & Charity, which is the unchangeable Nature & the Glory of true Christianity; We therefore can do no less than with the greatest earnestness Impress it upon Friends everywhere that they Endeavour to keep their hands Clear of this Unrighteous Gain of Oppression.

Negroes

1769 It is recommended that Friends who have Slaves in poſseſsion to treat them with tenderneſs, impreſs Gods fear on their minds, promote their attending places of Religious worship, and give those that are young, at Leaſt so much learning, that they may be capable of reading

No 26, Concerning Oaths.

1693

1693 Advised. That our Christian Testimony be faithfully maintained against the burthen & Imposition of Oaths.

No. 27. Concerning Orphans.

1706

1706 Recommended, That Friends who leave Children Young, especially those who have Estates for them, Do in their Wills appoint faithful Friends to be Guardians to them till they Come to the Age of Twenty one Years: And that Monthly Meetings take Care such Guardians do Discharge their Trust with Justice & Uprightneſs, as they will anſwer it at the great Day; And that Orphans be Admoniſhed to be Subject to the Wills of their Deceased Parents, as the said Meetings shall see Cause.

No 28. Concerning Applying to Parliament

1695

1695 Recommended to the Several Quarterly Meetings to take Care that timely Application be made in their respective Counties, by Sober discreet Friends, to Members of Parliament before their coming up to Sit, — giving them right Information, and Intreating them that in their Places, they would be Pleased to use their Endeavours and Interest for the Ease of Our Suffering Friends, when presented to them in Parliament. — This method having been found of Service in Some Places, tis desired it may be Observed.

No. 29. Concerning Persecution.

1675

1675 It is Our Advice and Judgment. That all Friends gathered in the Name of Jesus, keep up those publick Testimonies of Meeting together in their respective Places, and not decline forsake or remove their Publick aſsemblies because of Sufferings, as Worldly fearful & Politick Profeſsors have done because of Informers, and the like Persecutors; For such like Practices are not consistent with the Nobility of the Truth, and therefore not to be Owned in the Church of Christ. See Meetings for Worship p. 185

not to decline publick aſsemblies for fear of Perſecution

1678

1678 See Meetings for Worship, p. 185

1703

1703 See Sufferings - page, 351,

1707

1707 Advised, That all walk with much Circumspection Fear & Humility before the Lord, under the Sence of Our present outward Liberty, and the temporal Mercies that have for some Years attended the Same: That Our Love and Service for the Lord, and his holy Truth and Church may have the preference of our Worldly Business in our thoughts, lest We should incurr the Lord's displeasure, For an ungrateful neglect of Our Duty & thankfulneſs to Him: For it has been sometimes the Lord's Method to deprive his people of the Favours they abuse, though He is a God Slow to anger, and of Longsuffering towards his Children.

To live in a grateful Sence of the present Liberty

No. 30. Concerning Plainneſs in Habit & Speech &c

1675

1675 See Conversation, page, 59

1688

1688 See Conversation, page, 59

1691.

1691 Advised, That Friends take Care to keep to Truth &
Plainneſs in Language Habit Deportment & Behaviour,
in Language habit & behaviour that the Simplicity of Truth in these things may not
wear out nor be lost in our Day, nor in our Posterity's: To avoid Pride & Immodesty in Apparrel,
and Extravagant Wigs, and all other vain and
superfluous Fashions of the World.

1697

1697 It is the Advice of this Meeting that Friends every
where keep to Plainneſs both in Speech Habit and
Dealing Dealing, and not to Launch too far into the things
of this World, by overcharging themselves with
Trading and Debts beyond their abilities to Discharge;
But keep out of the Spirit of this World in all things,
that none may be Ensnared and defiled thereby.

1700 & 1701.

1700 & 1701 Advised, That a Godly Care be taken for the due
Education of Friends Children in the Nurture and
Education of Youth Admonition of the Lord, and in plain & modest Apparrel, and in Truth's Language: And that all Parents
be good Examples to them accordingly.

1703

1703 This Meeting being under a deep Sence, that
Pride, the vain Customs, and Fashions of the World
prevail over Some of our Profeſsion, particularly in

Exceſs

Plainneſs

1703 Apparel & Furniture

Exceſs of Apparel and Furniture; Doth earnestly — recommend, that all who make Profeſsion of the Truth, take Care to be Examplary in what they wear and what they use; so as to avoid the vain Customs of the World and all Extravagancy in Colour & Fashion, and keep themselves in respect thereof spotleſs & Blameleſs, adorning their Profeſsion in all modesty and Sobriety.

1708

1708 Parents to be Examplary

Advised, That Parents be examplary to their Children, in keeping out of the vain Fashions, Customs and Pride of the World, by adorning themselves Modestly and in Plainneſs, according to the Simplicity of Truth received by us in the begining.

1709

1709 to reſtrain Children

Let all be Examples to their Children in wisdom, Moderation, Plainneſs in Language & Habit, and not Examples only, but also to restrain them from any thing that might be to their hurt either inwardly or outwardly; neither Providing for them costly and gaudy attire unbecoming Godlineſs, nor letting them have Money to gratify themselves therein.

Let the Aged remember and the Youth know that when apparent Signs of the Plague of Leprosie appeared on the Walls in the Houses of Israel, 'twas the Care of the Priests under the Law to have the Houses Cleansed, and the Lepers also; And Surely Christ's Priesthood should not fall short of their Care, to Endeavour to Stop and remove the manifest Tokens of the Leprosie of the great Sin of Pride, and all Superfluity of naughtineſs; and therefore Let all concerned be earnestly Stirred up to Sincere Obedience to the Light of Christ Our great High Priest, that He may Cleanse the hearts & houses of that growing Plague which tends to the Ruin of Families & Posterities.

1712

Plainneſs

1712

1712

Advised. That None despise the Day of ſmall things, nor Turn aside from the Plainneſs, Simplicity and Life of the Truth, into the Words, Ways, Customs and Fashions of the World, which are vain, and will perish with the Using; God having redeemed his People out of the Same, thro' his righteous Judgments in their inward Parts; Knowing that whatsoever hath been Condemned and overturned thereby, is never to be Built up again by any that are Lovers of the Truth as it is in Jesus.

1715

1715

to follow the Examples of holy Antients

Advised, That all Friends, both Male & Female, be careful that their Adorning be that of a Meek & quiet Spirit, which in the sight of God is of great Price, even as the holy Men & Women of Old profeſsing Godlineſs with good Works were adorned: Oh that our Young Men & Women would * follow their Examples.

Extravagant Wigs

But to our great Grief We find too Many of Our Young Men, instead of observing that Gospel Exhortation, To be sober minded, have given way to lightneſs and Vanity, and the pernicious Effects thereof have led them into Pride, so that some have cut off good heads of hair, and put on long Extravagant & Gay Wigs, which they that are not of Profeſsion with us see as a mark of Declension from our Primitive Plainneſs. —

And likewise that our Young Women would Cease from that unseemly and Immodest Appearance of their high heads, and wearing their Gowns set up like the proud Fashion-Mongers of the World.

danger of flying the Croſs

Certainly both Males and Females who take such undue measures, Flee the Croſs of Christ, and if they do not Repent and return, they will thereby Suffer great Loſs. — But in the Bowels of Christian Compaſsion We warn and Exhort all such to come into that Subjection that the Yoke of Christ may be their Delight, and their Souls may reap the Comfortable Fruits of bearing the Same.

And

Plainneſs

1715
Caution against false Liberty

Pride
mixt Marryages Bowing
flattering Title &c—

And Caution given against false Liberty and sinful Ease in the Flesh, which is too apt to grow among some profeſsing the same Truth with us, in this our Day, for want of due watchfulneſs & Obedience, ~~Obedience~~ to the Light of Christ, and keeping low & humble before the Lord, by reason whereof many Evils get in amongst us. Vizt Pride of Aparel, Making Mixt Marriages with Persons of Contrary Judgments, Bowing & giving flattering Titles to Men; the saying Ye or you to a Single Person; and calling the Days of the Week and the Months by Heathen Names, to the declining of Truth's Testimony, and giving Occasion of stumbling to such as are seeking after the Knowledge of the same as it is in Jesus.

1718

1718
Testimony against undue Liberty

vain fashions

Gold Chains necklaces gold watches

naked necks & breasts: hoopedpetticoats.

A Testimony against an undue Liberty which too many under the Profeſsion of Truth run into, to the great Grief of faithful Friends, by reason whereof the way of Truth is evil spoken of, and our holy Profeſsion greatly reproached, by many Men amongst us putting on Extravagant Wigs, and wearing their hats & Coaths after the vain fashions, unbecoming the Gravity of Religious People: And too many Women decking themselves with gaudy and costly Apparel, Gold Chains, Lockets, Necklaces, and Gold Watches exposed to open View, which shews more of Pride & Ostentation than for use & Service; besides their vain Imitation of that immodest Fashion of going with Naked Necks and Breasts, and wearing hooped Petticoats, Inconsistent with that Modesty which should adorn their Sex, and did adorn the holy Women of Old.

Furniture

Speech

And in like vanity of mind divers amongst us run into great Extravagancies in the Furniture of their Houses; together with a great Declension in some of both Sexes from that Plainneſs and Simplicity of Speech so constantly used in holy Scripture

and

1718 and recommended and practised by our Antient Friends as well as by the faithful in this Day. —

Now this Meeting having been under a Deep Sence of the Love of Christ, Doth earnestly recommend the laying aside of those things before mentioned, and whatsoever Else is a hurt to themselves, and brings a Reproach upon us; For certainly it does not become the Gravaty of our Profeſsion, or any under it, to run into every new vain fantastick Mode or Fashion; but to keep to that which is modest, decent plain & useful; And therefore Friends every where are desired to stand Witneſses against these and all Other things that tend to Lay wast our antient Testimony.

not to adorne Children with gaudy apparel.

And that Parents in the tender Years of their Children would not adorn them with gaudy apparel, which Practice cannot come from the Spirit that leads out of the vain Customs of the World; but must proceed from pride in the Parents: And Children being led into such vanities and Fineries, come gradually to be in Love with them, which is apt to increase with their Years to that Degree, until it may be found very difficult to reclaim them.

1732

1732 As it is evident that the Simplicity and distinguishing Plainneſs of our holy Profeſsion is too much Lost amongst us, respecting Language, apparel and Behaviour; We therefore earnestly Exhort all to keep under the Power of the Croſs of Christ, which will Crucify to the World and the vanities of it, and bring up in a true Life of Self denial agreeable to the Gospel, and Example of our Elders.

keep Under the power of the Croſs

1735

1735 And for as much as a true Christian Practice & every Branch of it, is the Fruit & Effect of the inward Sanctification of the heart by the Spirit of Christ for which

1735 which we are frequently to wait on him in all humility and lowlineſs of mind; We tenderly Advise, that every thing tending to obstruct or Divert the Minds either of Children or those of more Advanced Years from this good Exercise may be carefully avoided and taken out of the Way; And it being evident that the Glory & Vanity of the World, and the pleasures and Diversions of it, are of this Nature and Tendency; We therefore Advise, that all Parents & Masters in the first place be good Examples to their Children & Families in an humble & Circumspect Walking, and with all Plainneſs of Habit & Speech, which is agreeable to the Croſs of Christ the Example of our Ancient Friends, and the Frequent Advices of this Meeting: And also that they be very careful not to Indulge their Children in the use & Practice of things Contrary thereunto; For we are sensible that by such Habits, of how little moment soever some may think them, the tender minds of Children while very Young being lifted up & drawn aside from the simplicity of Truth, a Foundation is early laid for those undue Liberties so justly complained of; For a Love & Delight in such things imprudently Indulged at first, grows up with them, and becomes strengthened more & more into confirmed Habits; and thus some have become Enemies to the Croſs of Christ, and forsaken & opposed the way of truth, which poſsibly might have been prevented by Parents doing their Duty in being good Examples, and not Cherishing Seeds of Vanity and folly in their Children; but on the contrary prudently discouraging every Appearance of Evil in them; which neceſsary Duty We earneſtly recommend to their Serious Consideration & Practice.

1736

1736 See Conversation, page, 62,

1737

1737 See Families, page, 118.

1739.

Plainneſs

1739

1739 'Tis also Our Concern to Exhort all Friends, both Men & Women, to watch against the Growing Sin of Pride & to beware of adorning themselves in a manner disagreeable to the Plainneſs & Simplicity of the Truth we make Profeſsion of; Oh! that they would duly consider that severe Reproof which the Lord by the Mouth of his Prophet pronounced against the haughty Daughters of Sion, Isaiah 3^{d}. Where he describes even the particularities of their Dreſsings & Ornaments so displeasing to the Lord, and drawing down his Judgments upon them. If those things in that time were so offencive in the Eyes of the Lord, how much more are they so now in a People profeſsing the Plainneſs & Simplicity which the Gospel of Christ recommends! ——— I will, saith the Apostle Paul, that women adorn themselves in modest Apparel with Shamefacedneſs & Sobriety Not with Broidered hair or Pearls or Gold or costly Array, but which becometh Women profeſsing Godlineſs with good works, 1 Tim: 2. 9. 10. — Where he plainly sheweth that such adornings are contrary to the profeſsion of Godlineſs. —— The Apostle Peter also is very full in his Exhortations on this Subject, Whose adorning, saith he, Let it not be that Outward adorning of plaiting the Hair, and of wearing of Gold, and of putting on of Apparel, but let it be the hidden Man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the Ornament of a Meek & quiet Spirit which is in the sight of God of great Price; for after this manner in the old time the holy women also who trusted in God adorned themselves. 1 Pet. 3^{d}. 3. 4. 5, plainly intimating that those who of old were holy & trusted God, placed not their delight in such ornaments. — Oh! that ye would weigh & Consider these things; Let your moderation be known unto all Men, and grieve not the holy Spirit of God, but be ye followers of him as dear Children, walking circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the the Time, because the Days are Evil.

1743

Plainneſs

1743

1743

And whereas we have with deep Concern observed by accounts from divers places, that there is a great Declenſion from that Simplicity in Speech, Behaviour and Apparel which our Worthy Ancestors were led into; and as we find by Experience that the same Spirit of Truth which led our Antients to lay aside every thing unbecoming the followers of Christ, will still lead in the same path all who Submit to its Guidance, We earneſtly intreat Friends everywhere to watch over themselves in these respects; and that Parents & Masters of Families would labour to Convince those under their care how inconsistant the gratifying a vain & worldly mind is with a Christian life, and the plainneſs & purity of the Gospel; The Example of our Bleſsed Saviour and his Followers and of Virtuous & holy Men in all Ages, ought to make a due Impreſsion on every considerate mind, and especially on such as have had the Advantage of an Education in a plainneſs agreeable to such Example.

Let not any such as degenerate in these respects, Excuse their own weakneſs, under a pretence of the misconduct of some who have appeared Outwardly plain: An Objection of very little weight, for did they rightly consider, they would clearly see, that the very Reason why deceivers sometimes put on plain apparel is because true Men have been Accustomed to wear it.

We alſo tenderly Advise That Friends, Especially those who should be Examplary to Others under their Care, take heed that they Exercise plainneſs of Speech without respect of Persons, in all their converse among Men; and not baulk their Testimony by a Cowardly Compliance, varying their Language according to their Company: A Practice of very Ill Example to our observing Youth; and rendering those

who

Plainneſs

1743 who uſe it Contemptible, and Looked upon as a kind of Hypocrites even by those with whom they so Comply. Such a mean Spiritted Practice seems to be cautioned against by the Apostle, where he advises, 1 Tim.° 3 : 8 — That the Deacons be grave, not double Tongued; — a Caution plainly importing that Double-Tonguedneſs is inconsistant with the Gravity of the Gospel.

No 31, Concerning the Poor

1693

1693 Advised, That if any Poor Friends for the Future should incline to Remove themselves & Families to this City, that before they unsettle themselves, they apply to the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings to which they belong for Advice & Cousel; and that such Meetings do rather advertise them to be contented in their Station and Places, where Provisions & Accommodations may be much easier & Cheaper obtained than at London; Or if permitted by Certificate to Remove, that then the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings from whence they come, do take Care to Supply their Necessities, that the Friends of London may not be overcharged for the future.

1694

1694 Advised, That Care be taken that Poor Friends Children may freely partake of Education in order To Apprenticeships.

1696

1696 Advised, That such among Friends as are Endued with plenty of outward Substance be timely and tenderly Advised to Do good therewith in their Day & Generation, especially with regard to the Poor; that the Tokens of their Charity may commend their memorial, and be good Precedents to Generations to Come.

That the Rich remember the Poor, and do Good in their Life time; and if they make any Settlement for the use of the Poor, to take advice and Cousel that it may be done so that Friends may not be deprived of their Charity, and may be firm and According to Law.

1698

1698 As to the Endeavouring to procure an Act or Acts for Employing and Relief of the Poor amongst us, and Building a Workhouse or Workhouses; Is referred to.

1698 to the Meeting for Sufferings to proceed as the respective Counties shall give Directions to them, & shall send up Friends to aſsist in Soliciting for the said Act or Acts from each County if they see Meet.

1701

1701 'Tis desired that no Poor Friends Children may want any neceſsary Learning. –

1709

1709 Advised and Desired. That where Friends want ability in the World, their Monthly & Quarterly Meetings aſsist them, that the Children of the Poor may have due helps of Education, Instruction and Neceſsary – Learning, And that Children both of the Rich and Poor may be early provided with industrious Employments, that they may not grow up in Idleneſs Looseneſs and vice; but that being thus Seasoned with the Truth, Sanctified of God, Taught our holy Selfdenying Way, They may appear a Reputation to our holy Profeſsion, the Comfort of their honest Parents, Instrumental to the Glory of God, and the Good of the Generation coming on. –

1710

1710 Agreed. That if any Poor Friend or Friends, for the time to come, should incline to Remove themselves and Families from the Limits & Compaſs of one Quarterly or Monthly Meeting to another, that before they unsettle themselves, they apply themselves to such Meetings to which they belong for Advice and Cousel therein; of which if the said Meeting to which they apply do approve, that they then give a Certificate signifying such Meetings Consent to their Removal.

to have Certificates

2.d what is to be Deem'd a Settlement

"2.d" When any Friend or Friends having such Certificate as above, shall bring their Certificate to any Meeting to which it may be directed & the Meeting Accept and Receive their Collection for the Poor, Or put the said Friend or Friends into any Service of the Church in the Compaſs

1710 Compass of the Meeting they Remove into such Receiving their Collection or Imployment may well be deemed a Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting; And altho such Friend or Friends may not be of Ability to Contribute to the Collection for the Poor or the Services of the Monthly Meeting. Yet such Friend or Friends behaving him or them selves according to Truth, and not any ways Chargeable to the said Meeting for the Space of three years after the Delivery of his or their Certificate. They may also then be well deem'd to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three Years inhabit.

3d. Servants 3. Servant Men & Maids bringing a Certificate as aforesaid, being hired for one Year, and Serving the same faithfully & honestly, that then after such Years Service, They also may well be deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass whereof they served, if they delivered into the Meeting within that time the Certificate they had.

4th. Removing without a Certificate 4ly If any Professing Truth, contrary to former Advice, Remove without a Certificate, and fall in to Want, and apply to any Friend for assistance. that then the Friend to whom they apply may Write to the Meeting to which the distressed shall say he or they did belong, to acquaint that Meeting of such a Necessitous Person, and know how such Person or Persons did Stand in the Unity of Friends; And if such necessitous Person have not been denied before they became thus Chageable. That then the Meeting from whence they Came and to which they did belong, shall reimburse the Charges they have been or may be at on their account.

This Agreement to Continue but four Years, unless it be then Renewed.

1711

1711 An Explanation of the Forth Article in the Last years agreement relating to the Settlement of the Poor, as follows. Viz.t ——

If

Poor.

1711 an Explanation to the 4th Article in 1710. If any Poor Friend or Friends shall unadvisedly Remove from their Habitations without a Certificate and fall into want, and apply to any Friend where they Come for Aſsistance, that then the Friend to whom they Apply, may Write to the Meeting to which the distreſsed shall say he or they did belong, to acquaint that Meeting of such a Neceſsitous Person, and know how such Person or Persons did stand in the Unity of Friends when they Removed, and if such neceſsitous Persons have not been denied, or were Owned, before they became thus Chargeable, that then the Meeting from whence they Came, and to which they did belong, do Reimburse half the Charges which have been Expended upon the Account of the Neceſsitous, for any time not exceeding three Months: In which time the Meeting from whence they Came shall desire the Neceſsitous Person to return; which they are desired to do with all reasonable Expedition, so soon as health and ability of body shall admit; and the Friends where they are, are desired to Advise and aſsist them in such Return; after which neither Meeting is obliged to Continue their Care and Charge in Case they Refuse.

But if they be such as are not Friends, or are disorderly Persons, pretending to Profeſs Truth, then neither Friends from whence they Came, nor Friends to whom they do come, are to be under any Obligation to maintain such neceſsitous Persons; Yet not to Restrain the Charity of any Particular Friend or Friends from affording present Relief to any Neceſsitous Person.

1714

1714 The Agreement of the Yearly Meeting 1710 for the Settlement of the Poor, with the Amendment of the forth Article the next Year, is now Agreed to be Continued.

1718

1718

1718 the Poor are our Family & not to be turned off ·

The Advice of 1709 Repeated: and with respect to the Poor amongus, It ought to be Considered, That the Poor, both Parents & Children, are of our Family; and ought not to be turned off to any others to be either Supported or Educated; and altho' some may think the Poor a burthen, yet Remember, where our Poor are well Provided for, and walk orderly, They are an Ornament to our Society: - And the Rich should Consider, It is more bleſsed to give than to Receive; and he who gives to the Poor, Lends to the Lord, who will repay again.

1720

1720 No Beggar to be amongus

none to be sent to the Pariſh

As Mercy Compaſsion & Charity are eminently required in this New-Covenant Dispensation we are under, So Care of the Poor and Indigent amongus, to See there be no Beggar in our Israel, is the Concurrent advice of this Meeting; That all Poor Friends among us may be taken due Care of, and none of them sent to the Pariſh to be Relieved; That nothing be wanting for for their neceſsary Supply; which has been According to our Antient Practice and Testimony; and it has long been of good Report, That we have not only Maintained our own Poor, but also Contributed our Share to the Poor of the respective Pariſhes wherein we dwell.

See Questions, page, 270.

1721

1721

A Question being proposed about the Settlement of Friends before that made in 1710. ——

This Meeting Concludes, That all that were not Denied, are to be Esteemed Members of the Several Monthly meetings in whose Compaſs they then reſided. - And it is the Sence of this Meeting, that it was not intended by the Minute of 1710 to affect the Settlement of Friends before that time

1724

Poor

1724

1724

An Explanation of the Settlement of the Poor— Agreed to at the Yearly Meeting in 1724. But not to brake or interfere with any particular Agreement of the Monthly Meetings of London among themselves. is as follows Viz:—

to have Certificates

That if any Friend or Friends for the future should incline to Remove him her or themselves and Families from the Limits & Compass of one Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to another, that before they Remove, they request a Certificate for such their Removal.

what may be deemed a Settlement

When any Friend or Friends having a Certificate of his her or their good Behaviour, as above, shall bring such Certificate to any Meeting to which it may be directed, and the Meeting accept or receive their Collection, or put the said Friend or Friends into any Service of the Church, in the Compass of the Meeting they Remove into, such receiving their Collection or Employment, shall or may well be deemed a Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting: And altho. such Friend or Friends may not be of ability to Contribute to the Collection for the Poor, or the Services of the Monthly Meeting, Yet such Friend or Friends behaving him her or themselves according to Truth, and noway Chargeable to the said Meeting, for the Space of three Years, may then also be well deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three Years inhabit.

Servants

Servant Men & Women, bringing a Certificate as aforesaid, being hired One Year, and Serving the Same faithfully, after such Years Service, shall & may be well deemed to belong to Such Monthly Meeting within the Compass whereof they so Served—

Notwithstanding the Several Minutes of Settlement in Relation to the Poor, there hath risen Some disputes among Friends concerning the same. We think it necessary to Add, That if any Friend or Friends

do

1724 do for the future Remove from One Monthly Meeting to another, to Settle there. That then the Monthly Meeting to which such are Removed, shall as soon as poſsible Enquire of the Friend or Friends so Removed for a Certificate; and for want thereof that then the Monthly Meeting where such Friend or Friends are so residing shall write to the Monthly Meeting from whence they Came to request a Certificate in behalf of such Friend or Friends: But if the Monthly Meeting where such are then residing do neglect to write to the Monthly Meeting from whence they Came for such a Certificate, for the Space of three Years after such Reſidence among them that then it shall be deemed a Settlement to such Friend or Friends, in such Monthly Meeting they have for three Years so Resided, Unleſs such Person or Persons were Insolvent or Denied before their Removal.

We think the Minute in the Year 1711 may Stand with the following Alterations, Vizt That the Word, Poor, in the first Line be Left out; and that the Whole, instead of the Half Charges be reimburst according to the Directions of the said Minute.

1729

1729 Rules & Directions Relating to Removals and Settlements among Friends; Agreed upon by the Yearly Meeting held in London, in the Third Month 1729.

1st First. If any Friend or Friends for the time to Come should incline to Remove him her or themselves & Families, from the Limits & Compaſs of One Quarterly
to have Certificates or Monthly Meeting to another, before they Unsettle themselves, they apply to such Meeting to which they belong for Advice & Counsel therein; of which if the said Meeting to which they apply do Approve, they give a Certificate Signifying such Meetings Consent to their Removal.

Secondly

1729 2d. Secondly. When any Friend or Friends having a
Certificate of his her or their good Behaviour, and
shall bring such Certificate to any Monthly Meeting
to which it may be directed, and the Meeting accept
What may and Receive their Collection, Or put the said Friend or
be deemed Friends into any Service of the Church in the Compass
a of the Meeting they Remove into; Such Receiving their
Settlement. Collection or Employment, shall or may be deemed a
Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting: And
altho' Such Friend or Friends may not be of Ability to
Contribute to the Collection for the Poor or the Service
of the Monthly Meeting; Yet such Friend or Friends
bevaving him her or themselves Orderly in Conversation,
and no ways Chargeable to the said Meeting,
for the Space of three Years after the Delivery of
their Certificate, or Advice thereof from the Meeting
from whence he she or they came, may then also
be deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass
of which they shall so three Years Inhabit.

3d. Thirdly. Servant Men & Women bringing a Certificate
Servants as aforesaid, being hired One Year and honestly
Serving the same in One Family, after such Years
Service Shall & may be deemed to belong to the Meeting
within the Compass where of their Master or
Mistress shall be proper Members.

4th Forthly. That the Two Weeks, Monthly or Quarterly
Meeting giving a Certificate to any Person
or Persons, shall speedily write to the Meeting to
which the said Certificate is directed, giving Notice
thereof, and if they Omit writing, and the Person do
not deliver his or her Certificate, then the Person
removing shall still belong to the Meeting from
whence he or she came; But if either the Meeting
give Notice, or the Person deliver his or her Certificate,
then the Person inhabiting three Years, as
before, shall be deemed a Member of the Meeting
into which he or she is come.

Poor

1729 5th Fifthly. If any professing Truth shall contrary to former Advice, Remove without a Certificate, and fall into want, and apply to any Friend for Assistance, that then the Friend to whom they apply may write to the Meeting to which the Distressed shall say he she or they did belong, & acquaint that Meeting of such a necessitous Person or Persons, to know how such Person or Persons did Stand in the Unity of Friends, and if such Necessitous Person or Persons have not been denied, but Owned before they became thus Chargeable, that then the Meeting from whence they came and to which they did belong shall reimburse the Charges they have been or may be at on their Account. And if the Meeting from whence such necessitous Person or Persons did come, shall Desire them to return, which they are then desired to Do with all Expedition, so soon as health & Ability of Body will admit, and the Friends where they are, are desired to Advise & assist them in such Return; But if such Person shall refuse to return according to such Advice, after the space of three Months, neither Meeting is Obliged to continue their Care and Charge: Yet this is not intended to restrain the Charity of any particular Friend or Friends from affording present relief to any necessitous Person.

6th Sixthly. But if any Friend or Friends remove without a Certificate, tis desired, That the Monthly Meeting from whence they Came, should make enquiry, & get Information whereto they are Removed, & write to such Quarterly, Monthly or Two Weeks Meeting, giving account of their behaviour & Circumstances, and if such Friend or Friends shall Continue for the space of three Years after such account received, within the Compass of the Monthly Meeting whereto he, She or they are removed, Behaving during that time Orderly, and no way Chargeable, nor become Insolvent, may then also be deemed to belong to thee

Meeting

1729 Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three Years inhabit; Provided they were neither Disowned nor Insolvent before they removed.

7th. Seventhly. That nothing herein Contained shall Interfere with any particular Agreement among the Monthly Meetings in London respecting their Poor.

8th. Eighthly. That every Quarterly or Monthly Meeting Communicate this agreement to the particular Meetings, in order to it's being publickly Read at the Close of Meetings for Worship, within three Months, or as often as they may See a Service in it, that none may plead Ignorance.

— We find Ourselves at this Time Engaged to Request, That Friends in any Part of this Kingdom, or other Places, where Provisions and the Necessaries of Life are dear & scarce, Or Sickness doth remarkably afflict; would in proportion to such Scarcity or affliction Exert their Charitable Assistance to the Poor; which is our Christian Duty as Stewards of the many Mercies wherewith the Lord has Entrusted us.

to be Liberal to the Poor in times of Scarcity or Sickness

1733

1733 Whereas different Sentiments have been in the minds of divers Friends with respect to the Minute of 1721. relating to Settlements; A Question was put, What is meant by the Word, Residence?

It was thereupon Resolved in this Meeting, That the same shall be taken in the most Extensive Sence of the Word, as with respect to all Cases, or Persons Inhabitting in any Place before the Year 1710, not being then Disowned by Friends.

1735.

1735 See Questions page, 271.

1737

1737 See Removals & Settlements, pa. 287 to 291.

Poor

1741
all
Monthly
Meetings
to support
their own
Poor
× see
Removals &
Settlements
page,

1741.

It is the Sence of this Meeting, That all Monthly Meetings Ought to take Care of, and Sufficiently Support all Poor Friends within the Limits of each Monthly Meeting, according to our Preſent Rule×: And if such Monthly Meetings by so doing is over Charged, that then the Quarterly Meeting ſhall, on Application made, give them such Relief as may be neceſsary.

2.50

No. 32. Concerning Preachers.

1689

1689 Caution against such as go up & down preaching who are out of Unity

A Concern coming upon Friends of this Meeting concerning several Persons both Men & Women, who go rambling Idly up & down the Countrys under pretence of Preaching Truth, who are out of the Unity of Friends in their own Country, whose Conversations & Examples are not Savory as becomes the Truth: Friends in the several Counties should beware of such, and give no Encouragement nor Countenance to them, but warn them to return and Settle in their Places and honest Employments, and seek Unity with their own Meetings.

1695

1695 This Meeting desires and hopes, that You whom the Lord hath gifted with a Publick Testimony for his Name & Truth, will in this Day of Liberty be diligent to Visit the Heritage of God in their Meetings, and most especially those least frequented.

1698.

1698 Preachers who are burthensome to be Admonished & Persisting therein to be Testified against

Where Friends in any County are really dissatisfied or Burthened with any that take upon them to Preach among them, Let them first be duly Admonished in their own County, with the Assistance of the faithful approved Ministers & Elders of the same Meeting & County, or adjacent County or Counties, if need be; And if afterwards they will persist to Impose upon & Burthen Friends, then to be publickly Testifyed against where they so Impose.

If any such after due Admonition will Travel abroad to minister, out of Unity with Friends of their own County, the Friends of those other Counties, where they Travel should have due notice of them from Friends who have had them under Admonition.

1699

Preachers

1699

1699 This Meeting recommends to the Several Monthly & Quarterly Meetings in the Several Counties, that they take care to advise, that those Friends that go forth with a publick Teſtimony may be such that are well approved at home by their own respective Monthly or Quarterly Meetings and are sound in Doctrine, and of good Conversation and in Unity with their own Meetings.

who Travel to be in unity with their own meetings &c.

And if any faithful Friends, or Meetings be burthened with the Contrary, Let them tenderly Clear their Conſciences privately to the Parties concerned giving them Gospel Order; and if they cant anſwer it, nor receive due Admonition, that the Meeting to which they belong, may be acquainted therewith: And the Second Days Morning Meeting is desired to send this, on this Meetings behalf, to the Several Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, with the Coppy of the Minute made relating to this matter last Year.

to deal privately before they acquaint the Meetd.

1702

1702 Agreed. That Friends in the Several Counties should be Cautioned not to receive any as Preachers among them, that are denied by Friends or Teſtified against by the Monthly Meeting to which they did belong.

1713

1713 There being Several Omiſsions concerning Publick Friends deceased, in the Accounts brought up. It is Desired, that Care be taken to send up to this Meeting. The time of their Decease, and of their Converſations, Labours & Services in the Work of Truth.

1716

1716 See Meetings for Worship. page 186,

172

Preachers

1720

1720 Friends in the Respective Counties and Meetings are earnestly Desired & Advised: That they uſe Prudence & Caution, so as not to be imposed upon by Imposters or Cheats, pretending to the Ministry or otherwise; & where there is Doubt or Question of the Ministry of any Persons in that Case; that such be Called upon to Shew what Certificate they have: And in General it is tenderly recommended to the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to see that Friends who Travel as in the Work of the Ministry, do go in the Unity of the Meetings to which they belong, and with Certificates therefrom.

to be Cautious not to be imposed upon & Ministers who travel to have Certificates

And farther, that it may become the tender Care of the said Several Meetings to Watch Over such as may be young in the Ministry, to see that they Walk humbly & wisely, that as on the One hand nothing truly tending to the Glory of God, and the Edification of his Church & People may be Discouraged; So on the Other hand, where any thing appears which may make Advice neceſsary, That the Elders of the Church both Ministers & Others, Do in the Wisdom of God give their Advice thereupon, with due Regard to the State of Weakneſs & Childhood that such may be under.

Meetings to watch over young Ministers & advise them

1723

1723 This Meeting taking under their Serious Consideration, the Beauty and Credit of keeping Decency and good Order in our Meetings for Worship, Advise Friends every where to avoid Publick opposition to a Minister not Disowned by the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to which He or She shall belong, by keeping on of hats, or making any other Appearances or Distinctions of Disunion: But that if any Person pretending to be a Minister shall give

to avoid publick opposition to a Minister not disowned See Meeting for Worship 1716 page. 186

Cause

Preachers

1723 giving Cause of Diſsatisfaction to be Dealt with — Cause of uneasineſs or Dissatisfaction to Friends in Doctrine Behaviour or Conversation, the Person so Offending to be dealt with privately in a Gospel Spirit & way, and if that shall not take Effect, then that Complaint be made of such Person to the monthly Meeting to which He or She shall belonge; and that Proceedings thereupon be accordingly had, and the Affair Settled with all poſsible Speed & Expedition.

See 1698 p. 251.

1727

1727 See Morning Meeting of Ministers, pag, 195.

1728

1728 We earneſtly desire, that a tender & prudent Care be on all Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, pursuant to the Advice of Last Meeting, to Advise & Caution as they See meet; And particularly against all Indecent posture & Gestures, unintelligible Tones and Sounds, Misquotations and Misapplications of Scripture, which renders such a Ministry Contemptible:— And that they do not grant Certificates to Ministers to Travel abroad to Visit the Churches, untill they have full Satisfaction of their Qualifications for so great a work, and are of Orderly Conversation, being well approved at Home.—

Caution against indecent Postures & Tones &c —

to be fully Satisfied before they grant Certificates

See Scriptures p. 316.

1730

1730 Friends are desired to Call on Strangers, who Travel in the Miniſtry for Certificates, thereby in all places to prevent being Imposed upon as far as may be.

See Meetings for Discipline p. 171

1731

1731

1731 An Epistle of Advice to Ministring Friends that Travel — &c

Dear & well beloved Friends

The Spirit of God being the Foundation of all true knowledge & Experience both in Ministers & Hearers, We earnestly Exhort, That all would diligently wait upon and mind it; Ministers in their publick Services Especially ought always to attend closely to their Several and peculiar Gifts: & Minister the Word faithfully as it's manifested and Revealed to them, observing a decent and modest Behaviour in the Exercise of their Ministry, and avoid Intangling themselves with the Affairs of this Life, that they may the better answer the holy Warfare in which they are Engaged: And Let the Hearers be watchful over their Own Spirits, and not forwardly Judge or Censure the Testimonies which may be deliverd amongst them; for if they be not very Careful and diligent in attending upon the Lord in Meetings they are liable to mistake in the Judgment they may pass on the Ministry. Now this being, as we apprehend a matter of great Moment for the preservation of Love & Concord in the Churches; and knowing the danger and ill Consequences which attend an hasty and Censorious Judging of the Ministry, We thought it very Necessary to Caution the Members of the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, not to Let their own Spirits Sway them, but Let the Spirit of God Rule and Reign in the Hearts of Friends, for that will preserve all in Sweetness & Tenderness One towards another; the due Observation of this, We Judge, will be a great help to Ministers in the Discharge of their Duty & Service to which they are Called.

And We earnestly request, That the Elders in monthly & Quarterly Meetings, would be

ready

1731

ready to Inform the Weak, when Suitable opportunity presents, that both Ministers and hearers pursuing One and the same End, namely the Glory of God, and the Good & Welfare One of another; the Church may be Edefied, Increase & Flourish to the Consolation of the Faithful:—

ministers to keep good Harmony with their Mo.ly Meet.s

On the other hand We Advise, That Ministers have it very much at Heart to maintain a perfect harmony and good Understanding with the Monthly Meetings to which they belong; and that as the said Meetings may sometimes find themselves concerned to Advise them respecting their Conduct in Meetings or otherwise, that they shew themselves ready to hear & receive Advice, as well as Teach and Instruct.

& be ready to receive advice

Monthly meetings to be Careful in giving Certificates

And Dear Friends, We further tenderly Advise all Monthly Meetings to take great Care to whom they give Certificates when they Travel, to prevent the uneasiness which sometimes falls on the Churches from a Weak and unskilful Ministry; and let the Elders where they see Occasion advise Ministers to be very prudent in their Conduct, not as busy bodys nor Meddlers with Family or Personal affairs in which they are not Concerned, or required to be assisting; And that they be very tender of One anothers Reputation, and that of Friends among whom they Travel, neither giving Ear, to, nor spreading reports apt to raise in the minds of others a Lessening or Disesteem of any of the brotherhood. And as soon as their Service in the Ministry is over, that they return to their habitations, and there take a reasonable & prudent Care of their own Business, Household and Family.

1736

1736

1736 And as the Lord in Mercy is breathing a fresh on Several of Our Youth of both Sexes, & fitting them for his Service; We recommend it to the Elders in every Meeting that they tenderly watch over all Young Ministers, and Advise & help them, as they in the Wisdom of Truth may be opened thereunto; Nourishing that which is right, and Comes forth in the Savour of Life, and Discouraging every thing that is indecent or unbecoming the Ministry.

1737

1737
a publick Friend Censured or Disowned
the readmitted &c.

If any Friend who has been a publick Minister among You, shall be guilty of such Practices as may Justly deserve your publick Censure, and shall be publickly Censured or Disowned by You, and afterwards upon tokens of repentance may be again admitted into Membership; We do think meet to Advise You That such readmission be not interpreted to give him or her the Liberty of Appearing as a publick Minister untill the Monthly Meeting he or she belongs to shall Judge the Scandal given by such Person so far removed, as such publick appearance may not Minister Occasion of Reproach either from Friends or others, And in Case any shall shew themselves too forward in so appearing the Meeting to which they belong are desired to give them such advice as they shall see Suitable to their Circumstances.

1738

1738 When We Consider that it was the Power of the Lord which first Gathered us to be a People, and Enabled our antients to bear a faithful Testimony to his name, We cannot but Exhort You time after time to wait for a renewed Enjoyment of the Power of Truth upon your Hearts That thereby you may be Encouraged to Come up in your respective Services, and in a Conscientious

Suffering

1738 Suffering for the Christian Testimony you are Concerned to bear: Our Bleſsed Lord just before his Ascension commanded his Disciples & followers to wait at Jerusalem till they were Endued with Power from on high, knowing their inability, without the sensible feeling of that Power, to speak in his Name for the Conversion of the nations; 'Twas this Power that Enabled them to Speak boldly in the Name of Jesus. This alone made them able Ministers of Christ, whose Preaching was not with Enticing Words of Mans Wisdom but in the demonstration of the Spirit & of Power. — And Seeing many of us have Experienced much Spiritual Consolation by Waiting in Silence, and humbly depending upon the Lord alone, We exhort Friends to be very Careful to observe the Hours appointed for Religious Worship, and that when together They Labour to feel their minds abstracted from visible Objects into a true Stilneſs and nothingneſs of Self wherein the true Teachings of the holy Spirit are Witneſsed by humble and Contrite Souls: in such a waiting State you will have a true relish & savour of the Ministry of those who are rightly Concerned by the same Spirit to Labour in Word & Doctrine among you.

1740

1740 Testimonies concerning publick Friends deceas; to be Recorded — See Record. page, 281.

1743

1743 And Dear Friends, We further deſire & tenderly Advise, as heretofore,* That the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings would appoint some Elder Friends sound in the Faith, and of good Discerning, to be Advising and aſsisting to those who may be Concerned to Minister amongus, and in Love to Caution them respecting such Mistakes, either in Judgment or Expreſsion, as through humane Frailty, even Good Men may sometimes be incident to.

* See
1727. p. 254.
1731. p. 255.
1736. p. 256.

And-

1743 And that in Sending up to this Meeting the Accounts of Publick Friends deceased. Care be taken where no Particular Testimony concerning them is given, that nevertheleſs the Age. Place of abode. Time of Death, and Place of Burial. as also how long they had been Ministers, be expresly mentioned.

account of publick Friends Deceas'd

1745

1745 Whereas it appears unto this Meeting that some Persons who are not in Unity with their Monthly Meetings where they dwell, Do travel up and down without Certificates or Recommendation. Imposing themselves as Preachers amongst Friends, to the Exercise and Trouble of the Churches where they come; We do desire that all such Friends as travel in the Work of the Ministry with the Unity & approbation of their respective Meetings. would be strictly Careful not to Countenance or Join with any Such Imposers; but rather to advise against such their disorderly Practice, and endeavour to perswade them to Return to their Callings & Habitations: And Friends of the Several Monthly or other Meetings, where such disorderly Persons may Come, are desired to Enquire of them for their Certificates; by the want of which they may be able to discover. that their Travelling abroad is not with the Approbation of Friends where they Dwell, and who Consequently are the proper Judges of their Call to and Qualifications for the Work of the miniſtry to which they pretend.

disorderly Persons who Travel up & Down preaching without Certificates &c. to be stopped

And we do in much Love Caution those Friends who are rightly concerned in the Work of the Ministry. to watch over their own Spirits, and not to be over hasty rash or Censorious in paſsing Judgment respecting the State of those who hear them; but to manifest. that in the Exercise of their ministry. they are led by the Love of God, and that

1745 that their principal Aim is, that they may be instrumental to administer Spiritual Consolation and Strength to the Churches where they Come.

And farther We earneſtly Exhort, that none would offer to Impose themselves as Preachers, in any Meetings of Friends, who are not themſelves found faithful against the Payment of Tithes & in Obſerving the Other Branches of our antient Christian Testimony.

1772

At a Yearly Meeting held at Newport Rhode Island

1772 agreed

Directions for Preachers in obtaining Certificates

That when publick Friends have it on their minds to travel out of y^e Quarterly Meeting they belong to. that they acquaint the Elders of their reſpective Meeting with their concern for their advice before they move it to the Preparitive Meeting in order for a Certificate from the monthly Meeting - And alſo when they have it on their minds to travel out of the Yearly Meeting that they proceed in like manner and take a Certificate from the Qarterly meeting they belong to concurring with the monthly Meeting therein

Prisoners

No. 33. Concerning Prisoners.

1676

1676 See Records, page, 277.

1681

1681 Advised, That an Account be Yearly Sent up of all Such Friends as are in Prison or Prisoners, that we may know who are detained Prisoners, and who are discharged since the Yearly Meeting before; and when discharged; also to Signifie the Time of their Commitment; by whom prosecuted and for what Cause. And that distinct Accounts be brought up of all such Friends as have Died in Prison or Prisoners for their Testimony to the Truth, since the foregoing Yearly Meeting, with their Names, Ages, Dwelling Place, Education, Callings, Time of Convincement, and the Places of their Travel & Service, and time of Sufferings and Death.

1682

See Questions, page, 269,
1682 and Record, page, 278,

1696

1696 See Questions page, 269,

1700

See Records page, 280.

1700

The Questions referred to in this page, are not Transcribed in this Book, nor any other Question till 1742 which begins, page, 271,

No. 34, Concerning Questions.

1742

1742 The Committee appointed to Consider the Queries, instead of the former Queries have drawn up the following; which were here several times read Queries altered duly Considered, and agreed to. And 'tis Agreed by this Meeting, that the several Counties send up their Answers to the said Queries to this Meeting Separate: from their Accounts of Sufferings: which for the future are agreed to be taken in immediately after the Accounts of Sufferings are Entered.

New Queries

1. What Present Prisoners?
2. How many discharged since last Year, when & how?
3. How many Died Prisoners?
4. How many Meeting houses Built? And what Meetings new Settled?
5. ℔ How many publick Friends died & when?
6. ℔ What is the State of Your Meeting? Is there any Growth in the Truth? and doth any Convincment appear since last Year? and is Love and Unity preserved amongst You?
7. ℔ Is it Your Care by Example & Precept to Train up your Children in all Godly Conversation, and in the frequent Reading the holy Scriptures, as also in plainness of Speech Behaviour & Apparel?
8. ℔ Do You bear a faithful and Christian Testimony against the Receiving or Paying Tithes? and against bearing of Arms? And do you Admonish such as are unfaithful therein? altered See p. 272
9. ℔ Do You Stand Clear in Our Testimony against Defrauding the King of his Customs, Duties or Excise, Or in Dealing in Goods Suspected to be Run?

℔ 10

1742 10th How are the Poor among you Provided for? and what Care is Taken for the Education of their Offspring?

11th Do you keep a Record in your Monthly and Quarterly Meetings of the Prosecutions & Sufferings of your respective Members? And have you a Record for your Meeting-houses & burial Grounds?

1744

1744 It is agreed by this Meeting, that the Eighth Query be altered & amended as followeth, Viz:

the 8th Query altered Do you bear a faithful & Christian Testimony against the receiving or Paying Tithes, Priests demands, and those called Church Rates? Bearing Arms, and Paying Trophy money? And do you admonish such as are unfaithful therein?

1760

1760 At the Yearly Meeting held in Newport or Rhode Island it was agreed & Concluded that the following Queries should be here Added, and all the former Queries from London to the Year 1742 to be Omitted in Transcribing, and these only to be in use among us.

1st Are all Meetings for Religious Worship & Discipline duly attended, the hour Observed, and are Friends preserved from Sleeping, or any other indecent Behavior therein, particularly chewing Tobacco or taking Snuff?

2d Is love and Unity maintained amongst you, as becomes Brethren, are Talebearing, Backbiting & Evil Reports discouraged? and where differences arise are Endeavours Speedily used to End them?

3d.

Questions

1760 3d Are Parents of Children careful to bring them up in Plainneſs of speech behaviour & Apparel & in the frequent Reading the holy Scriptures, to reſtrain them from Reading pernicious Books, & the Corrupt Conversation of the World?

4th Are Friends Careful to avoid the frequent use of Spirituous Liquors, the unneceſsary frequenting Taverns, and places of publick Resort, and in all their Conversation walk as becomes the Profeſsors of the bleſsed Truth, in true Moderation & Temperance, On the account of Births, Marriages, Burials, and all other Occasions?

5th Are Poor Friends Neceſsities duly inspected they relieved or aſsisted, in such busineſs as they are Capable of? Do their Children freely partake of Learning to Fit them for busineſs, and are they & other Friends Children placed among Friends?

6th Do no Young or unmarried Persons make proposals of marryage with each other without Consent of Parents & Relations Concerned, nor keep Company with those of other Societies on that account?

7th Do no Widowers or Widows make or Admit of proposals of marriage too Early after the Decease of former Husband or Wife? and are not the Rights of Children by former Marriages neglected?

8th Do you maintain a faithful Testimony against the payment of Priests Wages, Bearing of Arms, Training, or Millitary Service? and against depriving the King of his Duties, or buying or Vending of Goods suspected to be Run?

9th are Friends Careful to make their Wills, & Settle their Outward Estates whilest in health, and take Friends Advice therein when neceſsary? And are publick Gifts or Legacies, applyed to the Uses intended by the Donors?

10th

1760 10th: Are Friends clear of Importing Negroes or buying them when Imported, and use those well where they are poſseſsed by Inheritance or Otherwise, Endeavouring to Train them up in the Principles of Religion?

11th: Are Friends Careful to Live within the bounds of their Circumstances, and to avoid Launching into Trade & buſineſs beyond their ability to manage and thereby break their Promises and neglect the payment of their Just Debts; and are such as give reaſonable Ground of Fear on these Accounts timely Laboured with for their Recovery?

12th: Are there any belonging to this Meeting removed without a Certificate; Or are there any come from other Places, appearing as Friends Who have not produced Certificates?

13th: Are You Concerned regularly to Deal with all offenders, in the Spirit of Meekneſs & Wisdom, without partiallity or unneceſsary Delay, And where any Continue obstinate, to Place Judgment upon them in the Authority of Truth?

To keep out all Contention & Contentious Persons -

And it is further recommended. That all Contention & Personal reflection & Smiting be kept out of our Meetings, That all Friends be Careful to keep out of Heats & Paſsions and Doubtful disputations, and that we suffer no Turbulent Contentious Persons amongst us, in ordering or managing the Affairs of Truth, but that the same be managed in the peaceable Spirit & Wisdom of Jesus, with Decency, Forbearance & Love to each other.

1770 At our Yearly Meeting held at Newport on Rhode-Island from ye 8th of ye 6th mo 1770 to ye 11th of ye same Inclusive - -

This Meeting having been under a weighty concern on account of enslaving our fellow Creatures, have come to a conclusion to make an alteration in our 10th Querie and Substitute what follows in ye room thereof (Viz.)

the 10th Query altered

Are Friends clear of importing, Buying, or any way disposing of Negroes as Slaves, and do they use those well that are under their care not in circumstances through nonage or Incapacity to be set at Liberty. and do they give those that are young such an education as becomes Christians, and are others encouraged in a religious and virtuous Life and are all sett at Liberty that are of age capacity & ability suitable for freedom -

10th Query altered 1773

Are Friends clear of Importing buying or any way Purchaſeing, diſpoſing or holding of mankind as Slaves, and are all those who have been held in a State of Slavery discharged therefrom, and do they uſe those well under their care that are not in Circumſtances through Nonage or Incapacity to minister to their own Neceſsities and not sett fully at Liberty and do they give those that are Young such an Education as becomes Chriſtians, and are the Others encouraged in a Religious and Virtuous Life

No 351 Concerning Records.

1675

See Discipline page. 99.

1675

1676

1676 What matters are to be Recorded. Agreed, That Friends of the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings of each County be reminded to keep an Exact account among themselves —

1st. Of those that first brought the Message of glad Tidings among them.

2d. Of the Sufferings of those First Messengers whether at Steple houses Market Places or Otherwise.

3d. What Friends first Received them, & their Message:

4th. Of the Names, Travels, Faithfulness: and Unblameable Conversations of all the Publick Labourers that are Deceased.

5th. What Judgments fell upon Persecutors.

6th. Where the Hearts of any Such Enemies have been turned to God, Let them & their Conversion be Recorded.

7th. What Priests and Others have Writt ain Book against Friend. and who have Answered them.

8th. Who have Suffered Loss of Goods, or Susteined Imprisonement, with the Cause, time, & manner of such Sufferings, with the Names of their Persecutors.

9th. Who have Died in Prison on Truth's account, and for what Branch of our Testimony: And that Tithes taken away by Force be recorded as a Suffering for Truth.

10th. Of **Signal** Living Testimonies of dying Friends

11th Of the Names of Persecutors, and the Names of Witnesses to the Facts, whether Friends or Neighbours.

12th.

1676 12th If any have Apostalized. That their Sufferings whilst owning the Truth be notwithstanding Recorded, and their apostacies Signified.

13th Of the return of any Backsliders or Apostates. and the Judgments befallen any of them.

And that in Sending the Accounts of these Matters, and of Sufferings, up to London. Care be taken to begin where they left off last. & not to Send the Same twice over, nor confusedly.

1678

1678 Each Mo.ly Meet.g to keep a Book to Enter Sufferings & send accounts to the Quarterly meetings. That Care for the future be taken to keep a particular Book to Enter Sufferings in each Monthly Meeting; And that by the Monthly Meetings an Account of the Sufferings be sent to the Quarterly Meetings; And that the Quarterly Meetings transmit the Accounts Quarterly to the Clerk at London. that nothing be lost in their Cases of Sufferings for our Testimony.

See Tithes, page, 365.

1680

1680 Yearly Meeting Papers It is the Desire of this Meeting that ever Quarterly Meeting enter such Papers as they have had from this or such like Meetings, in their respective Quarterly Meeting Books, the better to secure them from being Lost.

1681

1681 See Prisoners, page. 265.

1682

1682 Epistles Agreed. That Epistolary Letters read in this Yearly Meeting be Entered in a Book; and that the Letters themselves be kept by the Clerk.

Method for keeping the Records. Draw up the Sufferings fair in a Book, and not too close; See Tithes by themselves. So for Swearing; So for Conventicle Acts; So for twenty Pounds a month; Each by themselves; Then take the number of all that Remain in Prison, both Old & new: And the Number

of

1682 of them that died in Prison, and so keep a Number of them all along that are put into Prison. and that Go out of Prison; And keep a Yearly Number who goes in and who goes out; and bring them up Yearly to the Yearly Meeting.

1689

1789 The Abstract of Friends Sufferings from several Counties being, The Meeting thinks it most Convenient to have the Abstracts made from the Records out of those Sufferings that came up to the Yearly Meeting, and which are Recorded here; so that the Meeting does not Encourage the making Abstracts in the Counties, lest they should Lessen Friends Sufferings. And when an History is taken & Published. it should be impartially done; And accounts of the stops put to Persecutions, and of Return of Goods; and Discharge of Prisoners, that have been procured by the Solicitation of Friends to the Powers whose Hearts the Lord inclined to favour them.

1691

1691 Its desired that Friends keep the Yearly Meeting Papers together in a Book in each Monthly & Quarterly Meeting.

1693.

1693 It is desired: that Friends at all their Monthly and Quarterly Meetings be reminded to Call for the Records of the Sufferings of Friends. to see that they be duly gathered, Entered and kept. and accordingly sent up, as hath been often Advised; both of what Tithes &c. are pretended to be due, and for how long time, and the time when taken, and by & for whom, and what Goods are taken, and the vallue thereof. aswell as those not exceeding as those exceeding the sum or Quantities demanded. it being a Suffering in both for Truth's sake They being in those particulars found Defective; and imperfect in divers Counties; which is an Obstruction to the general Record of Friends Sufferings. and therefore the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings are desired

to

1693 to take more Care for the future, that all Friends Sufferings for Truth's Sake may be brought up as full and Compleat in all respects as possibly may be.

1694

1694 Advised, that when Friends send up their Yearly Accounts of Sufferings for Tythes &c as near as can be, they give Account therewith, how much is taken in Vallue, and how much it exceeds the pretended value, and by & for whom.

Advised to remember to keep a true Record of manifest Judgments upon Persecutors, and send up an account thereof with the Sufferings Yearly. That the Just Judgments of God in pleading the Cause of the Innocent Sufferers, by Signally Punishing their Persecutors, may be taken Notice of as a Warning to Posterity; as the heavy Judgments, and fearful End of Wicked Persecutors are Recorded in holy Scriptures & Books of Martyrs &c -

1695

1695 Advised to send up with the Sufferings, true Copies of Warrants, Writs or Processes of Commitment attested by the Jaylors.

1698

1698 See Tithes, page, 368.

1700.

1700 Advised. That Friends keep exact & true Accounts of all their Sufferings for Conscience sake, both by Distresses, Sequestrations and Imprisonments that We may be Capable to give a true account thereof, to the Government when necessity requires.

And to give speedy Accounts when Friends are discharged from Imprisonments &c and by what Means.

1705

1705 It is tenderly Advised, That Friends be Careful to Stand faithful in their Antient Testimony, and keep exact accounts of their Sufferings; And when any Sufferings require Speedy Care for Redress, and are Written of

to

1705 to London, tis deſired the Case may be truly & fully ſtated, dated, and Subscribed by the Sufferer, and as often as can be Attested by some known Friend.

1737

1737 See Queſtions, page, — 271

1740

1740 This Meeting being Informed, that there is a great Deficiency in Entering into a proper Book, the Testimonies which are given forth by monthly & Quarterly Meetings concerning publick Friends deceased, Therefore Order, a Book to be Got for that purpose, and the Testimonies tobe Entered as they are brought up.

And that the several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings from whence they Come be particularly careful to Enter the same in their Book of Records, before the said Testimonies are sent up.

1746

1746 See Sufferings—page, 351.

Queries Recorded with Some Alterations at a Yearly meeting 1780 in Rhode Island

It is Recommended that all Contention & Perſonal Reflection be kept out of our meetings that all Friends be carefull to keep out of Heats & Paſsions & doubtfull Diſputation, & that we Suffer no Turbulent Contentious Perſon among us in Ordering or manageing the affairs of Truth but that the same be managed in the Peaceable Spirit & Wiſdom of Jeſus with decency forbearance & Love to each Other

Query 1st are all meetings for Religious worſhip & Diſcipline Reputably kept up. duly attended & the Hour Obſerved & are Friends preserved from Sleeping or any Other Indecent behaviour therein particularly Chewing Tobaco or takeing Snuff

2d. Is Love & Unity maintained among you as becomes brethren are talebearing backbiting & evil reports diſcouraged & where Differances ariſe are endeavours Speedily used to end them

3d. Are parents of Children carefull to bring them up in plainness of Speech behaviour & apparel & in the frequent reading of the Holy Scriptures as well in Solid retirements in their Families as on Other Occaſions to restrain them from reading pernicious Books and the corrupt Converſation of ye world

4th. Are Friends carefull to avoid the frequent use of Spirituous liquors the Unneceſsary frequenting of Taverns & places of Publick resort and when Neceſsarily met at Such, or at Births marriages, Burial, or Other Occaſions do they in Converſation & Conduct, walk in true moderation & Temperance as becomes the Profeſsion of the Bleſsed Truth

5th Are the Circumſtances of the Poor and ſuch as appear likely to need Aſsiſtance duly Inſpected, and their Neceſsities Relieved, or they Aſsisted in Such Buſineſs as they are capable of, do their Children partake of learning to fit them for buſineſs and are they and Others Friends Children placed amongst Friends

6th

6th Do no Young or Unmaried Persons make any procedure of Mariage without first having consent of his Own and the Womans parents or Guardians, nor keep Company with those not of Our Society on that Acct, and are Friends carefull not to Countenance, disorderly Mariages by joyning in the Accomplishment of or entertainment for the same

7th Do no Widowers or Widows make or admit of proposals of Marriage within twelve months after the decease of Former Husband or Wife and are not the Rights of Children by former marriage, Neglected?

8th Do You Maintain a faithfull Testimony against the payment of Priests wages, bearing of arms, Training or Other Military Matters, and against purchasing or being concerned in property taken in war, against depriving the King of his duties or buying or vending of Goods suspected to be Run, As the Latter part of this 8th Query is from present Circumstances Rendered Useless Friends are desired to suspend answering

9th Are Friends Carefull to make their Wills & Settle their Outward Estates whilst in health, & take Frds advice therein when necessary, & are publick Gifts & Legacies applied to ye Use Intended by the Donar

10th Are Friends clear of importing or any way purchasing or holding of Mankind as Slaves and are all those who have been held in a State of Slavery discharged therefrom: and do they use those well under their care that are not in Circumstances through Nonage or incapacity to Minister to their Own Necessities; and do they give those that are Young such an Education as becomes Christians, and are the Others encouraged in a Religious and Virtuous Life

11th

11th Are Friends carefull to live within the bounds of their Circumſtances and to avoid Launching into Trade or Buſineſs beyond their Ability to manage in the truth and thereby break their promiſes, and neglect the payment of there just Debts or Otherwiſe bring dishonour upon Our Religious profeſsion and are such as give Reasonable grounds of Fear on thoſe Accounts, timely laboured with for their Recovery

12th Are there any belonging to this Meeting Removed without a Certificate or are there any come from Other places appearing as Friends for whom Certificates have not been produced

13th Are You concerned Regularly to deal with all Offenders in the Spirit of Meekneſs and wisdom without partiality or Unneceſsary delay, and Where any continue Obstinate to place judgment upon them in the Authority of Truth

No. 36 Rules for Removals & Settlements.

1737

1737 1st 1st. That all Friends shallbe deemed Members of the Quarterly, Monthly, or Two Weeks Meeting, within the Compaſs of which they Inhabited or Dwelt, the First Day of the Fourth month 1737; Except such who are Settled Pensioners to, or have within one Year last past been Relieved by, any Other such Meeting: In that Case He, she, or They shall be deemed a Member or Members of the Meeting to which they are Pensioners, or by whom They have been so relieved.

2d 2d. That if any Friend or Friends shall Remove him, her, or themselves and Family from the Limits or Compaſs of one Quarterly, Monthly, or Two Weeks Meeting into another, They shall apply to the meeting to which they belong for a Certificate, or other uſuall Recommendation, to the meeting they are Removed, or propose to Remove into; which being obtained & Delivered to that Meeting, Such Friend or Friends shall from thence forward be deemed a Member or Members of the Meeting they so Remove into; Provided they were not Insolvent, or had been relieved by the Meeting Recommending, or some other Meeting on their behalf, within the Term of three Years preceeding the Delivery of such Certificate.

But if any Friend or Friends who has delivered a Certificate, or been otherwise Recommended shall fall into Neceſsitous Circumstances, and shall ask and receive any Relief within the above limitted Time of three Years, not having Contributed to, or been Employed in any Service of the Church, by the Meeting they were recommended to, Such Friend or Friends shall then Continue to belong to the Meeting

from

1737 from whence they were Recommended; Yet the Meeting within the Compass of which He She or They reside shall assist & Relieve him her or them. and give Notice thereof to the Meeting which Recommended him her or them; and upon that Meetings Receiving such Notice, They shall immediately take the necessary Care of him her or them. and Repay the Charge the Meeting to which they were recommended has been at on his her or their Account.

3d 3.d That no Friend or Friends, Apprentices & other Servants excepted, shall gain a Settlement after the time abovementioned in any Meeting, unless Recommended by Certificate, or other usual Recommendation, and the same duly delivered to the Meeting they are recommended to; Except the Meeting within the Compass of which they reside shall receive their Collection, or Employ them in any Service of the Church; But in Case such Meeting shall receive their Collection or Employ them in any Service of the Church, their so doing shall Intitle such Friend or Friends to Membership with them, agreeable to the Restriction and Tenour of the second Paragraph.

4th 4.th If any Friend or Friends shall fall into Want, the Monthly Meeting within the Compass of which they then Reside, shall take the necessary Care to Relieve them: And in order to prevent any Inconveniencies that may arise from want of knowing with Certainty to what Meeting a Poor Friend or Friends properly belong, at the time they fall into Want, whereby it may be render'd difficult for the Monthly Meeting which shall relieve such necessitous Persons to obtain repayment of the Charge they may be at on such accounts. It is Agreed, That where any Poor Friend or Friends shall become Chargeable to any

Meeting

1737 Meeting where He She or they may reſide; and who at the same time are not proper Members thereof. That Meeting may Apply to any Meeting where such Friend or Friends have been Members; And that Meeting upon notice to them given of such neceſsitous Friend or Friends, shall take the needful Care of them, and repay the Charge the Meeting in which they Reſide hath been or shall be at: But if that Meeting shall apprehend such neceſsitous Person or Persons do not belong to them, but have gained a Settlement else where, They may fix them on any other Meeting where they have gained a Settlement; and in that Case such Meeting shall repay them the Charges they have been at.

5th 5th. Single Men & Women Servants being hired One Year, and honestly Serving the same in One Family, after such Years service shall belong to the Meeting of which their Master or Miſtreſs shall be Members; And if such Servants shall so Dwell with any who are not Friends, then they shall be deemed Members of the Monthly Meeting within the Compaſs of which their Master or Miſtreſs shall Live.

6th 6th. Apprentices shall gain a Settlement in that Meeting within the Compaſs of which their Master or Miſtreſs dwell at the time of his or her being bound, and Living Forty Days with such Master or Miſtreſs afterwards: And in Case an Apprentice shall be turned over to another Master or Miſtreſs, He or She shall in like manner gain a Settlement, after living with them Forty Days, in the Meeting within the Compaſs of which the Master or Miſtreſs Dwell, to whom he or she is so turned Over.

7th 7th. Provided always, that nothing herein Contained shall be understood to hinder the usual & neceſsary Care of Friends in their Inquiry after Conversation & Clearneſs respecting Marriage, but

Certificates

1737 Certificates or Other recommendation in that Case shall continue to be required as heretofore hath been from such Meetings as the Friend hath belonged to.

And whereas Disputes may arise about Settlements, where the Man brings a Certificate or Recommendation from his own Monthly Meeting to Another on Account of Marriage, It is hereby Agreed. That Such Certificate or Recommendation shall not be construed to make a Settlement; unleſs his Removal be expreſsed therein.

8th. 8th.. The Wife & Children to be deemed Members of the Monthly Meeting of which the Husband or Father is a Member, not only during his Life, but likewise after his Decease, untill they shall gain another Settlement Elsewhere.

9 9th. Provided always, and it is hereby Agreed. That what Charge any Meeting have or may be at, for the Relief of any Friend or Friends, who were before this Settlement Members of other Monthly Meetings, shall be repaid to the said Meeting by the Meeting to which they did heretofore belong: And that if any Dispute should arise about the Settlement of such Poor Friend or Friends now under Relief, Such Settlement or Settlements shall be determined according to the former* Rules & Directions which are not to be made use of in any Other Cases.

See * under the head poor

Lastly. Lastly. All Minutes, Orders & Directions heretofore made & Recommended by this Meeting relating to Removals & Settlements of Friends, are hereby declared void & of no Force, Except in the Cases provided for in the ninth Paragraph.

which are under head poor

1740

1740

1740 It is Agreed, That no Proposition for altering the Rules for Removals & Settlements of Friends made in 1737 shall be received by this Meeting, unless such Proposition shall be Signed in & by Order of a Quarterly Meeting, or some Other Meeting which do directly Correspond with this Meeting.

1747.

1747. See Discipline, page. 103.

No. 37. Concerning Representatives.

1672

1672 Advised. That One or Two of Each County that are Concerned in the publick Service of Truth, in each respective County, do come up to this Meeting Once a Year; to be Chosen or Elected by the Quarterly Meeting of each County respectively for that purpose.

See Yearly Meeting, page. 405

1687

1687 Advised, that such faithful Friends, One or Two of a County be desired to attend the Yearly Meeting, as are most capable & fit for the Service thereof.

1688.

1688 That Two faithful Friends in every County may be desired to come up, who know the State of Friends, and their Sufferings, in their respective Counties.

1690

1690 That Two faithful understanding Friends in every County be desired to come up, who may be enabled to give a certain account of the Condition and Sufferings of Friends in their respective Counties.

1691

1691 That Two faithful understanding Friends in every County, who are truly approved in universal Love Unity & Peace among Friends from whence they come may be desired to come up, who may be enabled to give a certain and clear Account of the Condition & Sufferings of Friends, and of Truths Prosperity in their respective Counties.

1700

1700 Agreed. That no County Send up less than Two Friends, nor more than Four be Entered.

Representatives

1700 Advised. That Friends bring brief & direct anſwers
to the Questions drawn up at the Quarterly Meetings
and brought in Writing to the Yearly Meeting.

1706

1706 See Questions, page 270

1709.

1709 This Meeting underſtanding some Friends that
are Representatives go out of Town before the Meeting
not to go is Ended; It is now advised and agreed. That for the
out of Town future no Representatives go out of Town before the
before the meetg Meeting Ends, without first acquainting the Meet-
Ends. -ing thereof, that the Service of this Meeting may
not be neglected.

1714

1714 Recommended, That Friends take Care that those
who are desired and appointed to come up to Yearly
Qualifica- Meetings, may be Men fearing God, of good Conversa-
-tions -tions, of weighty Spirits, Prudent & Sincere, and
well acquainted with the affairs of Truth at home.

1728

1728 Advised. That the Several Quarterly Meetings
Four to of the Counties & Cities do appoint at least Four Friends
be appointed in order that in Case a part should be disappointed by
Sickneſs or other Accident, there may be a Sufficient
Number to anſwer the Service

1730.

1730 This Meeting gives Liberty, in regard of the Large-
County of -neſs of the County of York, that for the future they may
York may be allowed to Enter any Number as Repreſentatives
have Eight not exceeding Eight.

1733

1733 And, Dear Friends, Our tender & brotherly advice
to your several Quarterly Meetings, is, That, They

Would

1733 would be careful annually to Depute such Friends to attend the Service of the Yearly Meeting, as are well acquainted with the affairs of the Church, and diligent attenders of the Meetings for Discipline in the respective Counties & Places where they Dwell, and whose Practice and Conversation is Anſwerable to the Testimony they Profeſs to bear

Qualifi=cations

1743.

1743 We Advise, that the Several Quarterly Meetings take Care to appoint for their Representatives & Correspondents. Men known to be faithful and Conscientious in every Branch of our Christian Testimony.

1746

1746 This Meeting observing a Deficiency in divers Counties in not duly attending this Meeting, Recommends to the Several Quarterly Meetings, the following Minutes. Viz.t

attendance Required

A Minute of this Meeting in 1728 (see p. 302)
& a Minute of this Meeting in 1733 (see p. 302 & 303)

1750

1750 The Advice of 1728 again earnestly recommended, see Yearly Meeting, page, 413.

No. 38. Concerning Salutations.

1715

1715 See Plainneſs, page, 226.

1718

1718 Advice Given against a Declension crept in among us, by unbecoming Gestures, in Cringing & bowing the Body by way of Salutation, which ought not to be taught or Countenanced.

No 394 Concerning Schools.

1690

1690 See Children, page. 40

1695

1695 Advised. That Schools, and School masters who are faithful Friends and well qualified, be placed and Encouraged in all Counties, Cities, Great Towns or Places where there may be need: and that such School Masters, as much as may be, sometimes Correspond One with another, for their help & improvement in such good & easy Methods as are most agreable to the Truth, and the Children's Advantage and Benefit; And that Care be taken that Poor Friends Children may freely partake of such Education in order to Apprenticeship.

1696

1696 See Children page – 41 & 42

1697

6697 Quarterly and Monthly Meetings are desired to take Care, that in all places where Schools are set up for the Teaching of Friends Children, that the Masters be diligent to Improve & forward their Scholars in Learning, and keep them out of every thing that would Corrupt good Manners.

1745

1745 See Meetings for Discipline page 179

1751

1751 As the want of Proper Persons amongst Friends qualified for School Masters, hath been the Occasion of great Damage to the Society in many Places, as thereby well Disposed Friends are deprived of Opportu-nities

1751 Oppertunity's for the Education of their Children in a manner consistant with a Religious Concern for their Welfare, have been necessitated to send them to those of other Perswasions, whereby the tender Minds of such Children have been in great danger of being Leavened into the Language Customs and Habits of the World, from whence it is difficult afterwards to Reclaim them: We desire Friends would attend to this important Point; and in monthly Meetings assist Young Men of Low Circumstances whose Genius and Conduct may be suitable for that office, with the Means requisite to obtain the proper Qualifications, and when so Qualified, afford them the necessary Encouragement for their Support

No 40 Concerning the Scriptures.

1706

1706 Advised. That Parents and Guardians of Children do acquaint them with, and bring them up in the frequent Reading of the Scriptures of Truth; and also to Instruct them in the great Love of God throug Jesus Christ; and the work of Salvation by him, and of Sanctification through his bleſsed Spirit.

1709

1709 We recommend it as an incumbent Duty on Friends to Cause their Children to be frequent in reading the holy Scriptures, and in observing to them the Examples of such Children as in Scripture are recorded to have early Learned the fear of the Lord, and hearkened to his Counsel; Instructing them in the Fear & Dread of the Lord, planting impreſsions upon their Spirits of Reverence towards God, from whom they have their daily Support; Shewing them they ought not to offend Him, But Love Serve & honour Him in whose hand all Bleſsings are.

1712

1712 We Exhort all Parents of Children to be very careful to Educate and train them up in the Fear of God, and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, according to the holy Scriptures, and be good Examples to them in all things.

1720

1720 Advised. That no Friends Suffer Romances Play-Books, or other vain & idle Pamphlets in their houses or Families, which tend to Corrupt the minds of Youth; but instead thereof that they excite them to the Reading of the holy Scriptures & Religious Books.

Let

Scriptures

1720 Let the holy Scriptures be early taught our youth, and diligently Searched & Seriously read by Friends, with due regard to the holy Spirit from whence they came, and by which they are truly Opened: for they Contain Excellent Doctrine, Rules & Precepts Divine & Moral, insomuch that there will be no need to Enumerate or offten repeat Laws & precepts, like the Jews under a literal & lower Dispensation and Covenant than we are Called into; the true Practice of the pure Religion given us will anſwer all

1723

1723 See Children page 45.

1728.

1728 Advised, that Ministers as well as Elders & all Others, in all their Preaching, Writing & Converſing about the things of God, do keep to the form of sound Words, or Scripture Terms, and that none pretend to be wise above what is there Writtain and in such pretended Wisdom go about to explain the things of God in the Words that Man's Wisdom teaches; But on the contrary, that you would at proper times and Seasons, when you find your Minds rightly disposed thereunto, give the Youth to Underſtand that the same good Experience of the work of Sanctification through the Opperations of the Spirit of God, which the holy Scriptures plentifully bear Testimony to, is to be witneſsed by Believers in all Generations, as well as by those in the first Ages of Christianity; In which Case some account of your own Experience will be helpful to them: And this We Recommend as the most Effectual Means for begetting & Eſtabliſhing in their minds, a firm Belief of the Christian Doctrine in general, as well as the Neceſsity of the Aid

and

1728 and help of the Operations of the holy Spirit of God in the hearts of Men in particular, contained in that most Excellent Book the Bible; and for the preserving them from being defiled with the many pernicious notions & Principles contrary to such sound Doctrine, which are at this time industriously dispersed in the Nation, to the Reproach of the Christian Religion in general.

1729.

1729 'Tis earnestly recommended to all Friends, as much as in them lies, to prevent their Children & Servents from Reading Plays, Romances, and all such Books as have any tendency to lead their minds from God, and draw their Youthful Affections to a love of the World, and desire after the vanities & Evils that are therein. And also to be very careful to prevent their Children & Servants from reading vile & Corrupt Books (some of which have been published of late) as manifestly tend to Oppose and Reject the divine Authority of the holy Scriptures, and to introduce Deism, Atheism, and all manner of Infidelity & Corruption both in Principle and Practice.

1730

1730 We did last Year, and do now again earneſtly Recommend and beseech all Friends to Admonish & Exhort the Youth under their Care, not to Read but refrain all such Books as tend to make void the Divine Authority of the holy Scriptures, and to promote Prophaneneſs and Infidelity in the Earth.

1731

Scriptures

1731

1731 'Tis recommended to all heads of Families that they do frequently call their Children & servants together; and in a Solemn religious Way, cause them to read the holy Scriptures; and in so doing that they humbly wait upon God with their Families, for Instruction & Counsel to them respecting Christian Faith & Practice.

See Children, page, 46 & 47.

1732

1732 We tenderly & earnestly advise & Exhort all Parents & Masters of Families, that they exert themselves in the Wisdom of God, and in the Strength of his Love, to Instruct their Children & Families in the Doctrine & Precepts of the Christian Religion contained in the holy Scriptures; and that they Excite them to a diligent Reading of those Sacred Writings, which plainly set forth the miraculous Conception, Birth, Holy Life, Wonderful Works, Bleſsed Exple, Meritorious Death, and Glorious Resurrection, Ascention and Mediation, of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ; And to Educate their Children in the belief of those important Truth's, as well as in the Belief of the Inward Manifestation and Operation of the Spirit of God on their own Minds, that they may reap the Benefit & advantage thereof, for their own Peace & everlasting happineſs, which is infinitely preferable to all other considerations: We therefore Exhort in the most Earnest manner, That all be very Careful in this respect, a neglect herein being in our Judgment, very blameworthy; and further where any deficiency of this sort appears, We recommend to the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, that they stir up those whom it may Concern to their Duty therein.

1733.

1733. And Dear Friends, We must remind you to take all convenient Opportunities to put your Children upon Reading & Meditating in the holy Scriptures, which having proceeded from the Dictates of the holy Spirit, do afford the most Comfortable & Salutary Instructions of all Writings whatever, as we have heretofore often advised, and particularly in our Epistles of the two Last Years, in which the Advices on this head being Large & comprehensive We referr thereto.

1734.

1734 As there hath been heretofore, so there yet remains upon this Meeting a Peculiar regard to and weighty Concern for the Offspring of Friends, that the rising Generation might be Trained up in the Principles & Practice of the Christian Religion, in order whereunto, as formerly so now again, We recommend an humble waiting upon the Lord, for the Manifestation of his Power & Spirit; and a diligent reading of the holy Scriptures in your Families; And that Masters of Families, Parents & Guardians of Children, at proper and Convenient Opportunities, would stir up those under their Care to diligence herein, showing them that these Sacred Writings do contain the Doctrines & Principles of our Profession, & Explaining to them, as the Lord by his good Spirit shall Enable, the Grounds & Causes inducing Friends to Distinguish themselves by not Conforming to the vain Fashions & corrupt Customs of the World. And that one great End of Christ's coming was to form to himself a People, who by their Lives & Conversations should be Patterns of that Simplicity, Holiness & Charity, which our great Lord himself in the most perfect manner Exhibited

Leaving

1734 Leaveing us an Example that We should follow his Steps. —

By Simplicity We understand an inward Sincerity and Lowly disposition of Mind, producing that plainness of speech Habit & Manners, which Christ himself and his holy Apostles recommended. —

By Holiness, an internal purity & Renovation of Soul, wrought in us by the Grace of God, the Fruits whereof are, a Devout & Religious Behaviour, Justice and Inoffenciveness in all our Dealings and Conversations. — By Charity, that Spirit of Love ~~[illegible]~~ Compassion & Forbearance, wherein Consists the Sum & Substance of Religion, the Introduction of that universal Peace & good Will upon Earth, which is the great Design of Christianity, aswell as the Badge and Characteristick of our holy Profession; By this, saith our Blessed Lord shall all Men know that Ye are my Disciples, if Ye have Love one to another. John. 13. 35. —

1735

1735 As it hath been frequently the Care and Concern of this Meeting, to Advise Parents and all who have the Tuition & Education of Children, to bring them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord, We are still Sensible that there is occasion to repeat our tender Advice & Exhortation, that you would Lay this Matter closely to heart, for 'tis certain that the Preservation of your offspring in the way of True Religion & Godliness is of much greater Moment to their Happiness both in this Life and that which is to come, than any thing else you are capable of doing for them; and therefore We renew our advice, That you be diligently Exercised in such a Godly Care, Waiting upon God for Wisdom from him, first to walk wisely & Circumspectly before them yourselves, and then you may with more Weight

1735 Weight & authority, in the meekneſs of that Wisdom Instruct, Advise, Exhort & Rebuke, as you shall see occasion: And we think it will contribute very much to your Succeſs in these Endeavours, if you put them frequently, in a Solemn manner upon Reading the holy Scriptures, especially such parts of them as relate to the great Doctrines and Precepts of the Christian Religion, and then wait upon God with them, that you may become Instruments to open their understandings, and in the Sence of his Power & Wisdom, preſs them closely to the Practice of what they Read: Such an Exercise as this begun early, and frequently repeated, We recommend as the Indispensible Duty of all Concerned, and the most likely means for the Preservation and Improvement of Children in the Way of Truth; and thro' the Lords Bleſsing to secure them from being prevailed upon by the many false deceitful Spirits that are gone forth in to the World, tending to Subvert the Christian Faith, and a practice and Conversation agreeable thereto.

1736

1736 See Children, page, 48.

1737

1737 See Kings & Governours. page, 132.

1745

1745 See Meetings for Discipline, pa: 179.

Absolom Perrys Bill of Manumit:on
2 ...

To all People to whom these Presents shall come Greeting Know ye that I Stephen Perry of Hopkinton in Kings County &c Yeoman do by Presents for me my Heirs Executors Administ^rs and Assigns Manumitt and Sett free from Slavery my Molatto Man Servant Absalom Commonly Called Absolom Perry Giving and hereby Granting unto him the sd Absolom his Freedom to Act & doe for himself in all Cases Whatsoever from henceforth forever in Witness and Confirmation Whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal this Twenty Seventh day of the first Month in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred & Seventy Seven

Sign, Seal, & Delivered
In Presence of
Martha Borden
Simeon Perry

Stephen Perry (Seal)

No. 41. Concerning Servants.

1703

1703 Advised, That Servants profeſsing the Truth, behave themselves in due Subjection, Humility and Plainneſs, as becomes their Profeſsion and Places; And likewise that Masters & Mistreſses behave them=selves towards their Servants according to the Apostles Direction. Eph 6. 5. 6. Colos. 4. 1. —
1 Timo. 6. 1. 2. Tit. 2. 9. 10. 1 Petr. 2: 18. 19. 20.—

1718

1718 A Religious Care is recommended towards our Servants, that all Appearance of Pride, Idleneſs, and vain Conversation in them may be discouraged, and that they may be Exhorted to attend First Day & Week Day Meetings, and have a sence of Gods Love upon their Spirits, and therein partake with us of the Sweetneſs of Truth; And in the Discharge of their Duty to God, and to their Masters & Mistreſ=ses, know Peace in themselves.

1737

1737 See Removals & Settlements pa: 288. 289.

No. 42. Concerning Singing

1675

1675 It hath been and is our Living Sence & Constant Testimony according to our Experience of the divers Operations of the Spirit & Power of God in his Church, That there hath been and is Serious Sighing, Sensible Groaning, and reverent Singing, breathing forth in heavenly Sound of Joy with Grace, with the Spirit, and with understanding in blessed unity with the Brethren, while they are in the publick Labour & Service of the Gospel, whether by Preaching, Praying or Praising God, in the same Power & Spirit, and all to Edification and Comfort in the Church of Christ, which therefore is not to be Quenched or discouraged by any: But where any do or shall abuse the Power of God, or are Immoderate, or do either in Imitation, which rather Burthens than Edifies, such ought to be privately admonished, unless rebellious, For that Life, Spirit, and Power is risen in the Church which doth Distinguish, and hath Power accordingly to Judge.

Steplehouse Rates.

No. 431 Concerning Steplehouse Rates.

1688

1688 See Sufferings - page — 350

1693

1693 Advised. That our Christian Testimony against Steplehouse Rates or Lays, be faithfully maintained.

1703

1703 See Tithes — page — 369.

1727 1727. See Tithes - pa — 372.

1732 1732. See Tithes - pa — 372.

1733 1733. See Meetings for Discipline. pa - 173.
And Tithes. pa - 373.

1744 1744 See Questions - pa - 273

No. 44. Concerning the National Stock.

1672 & 1676.

1672 & 1676 The uses for which it is Collected ——

1. For the Service of Truth beyond Sea. -
2. For Books disposed of and given away to the Chief Rulers & others.
3. For Packets of Post Letters with Accounts of General Sufferings, and Charges of Recording, & often Transcribing the Same —.

1679

1679 Disburstments out of the National Stock to be Such only as shall be agreed and Directed by the Weekly Meeting for Sufferings in London, and not any Other.

1682

1682 Six Friends to keep Cash -. Agreed, That for keeping the Moneys of the National Stock, at every Yearly Meeting Three Friends shall be chosen, and those Three of the Six that have Served Two preceeding Years, shall Yearly be dismissed and others to be appointed in their room as aforesaid, So that the Number of Six may be still Compleat, who shall have the keeping of the Cash for the General Service Intended

1692

1692. Advised. That for the future when there shall be Occasion for a Contribution, Friends that come up from the Several Counties, bring with them an Account of the Total Sum of each Collection, that may be made in their respective Counties, to the next Ensuing

Yearly

1692 Yearly Meeting after such Collection is made that it may be Compared with the Accounts here for Friends Satisfaction therein.

1698

1698 Ordered. That when a Collection is made in the Several Counties, It may be sent up to their Correspondents here to pay to the Meeting for Sufferings, and the Friends of the Several Counties, when they come up to the next Yearly Meeting, to bring up the total Sum Collected & Returned in their County to the Yearly Meeting.

1732.

1732 See Yearly Meeting, pa: 410

Sufferings.

No. 45. Concerning Sufferings.

1672

1672. Advised. That Friends be Exact and Brief in drawing up their Sufferings in Each County, of the Times, Names, Causes, and Places, of both Friends and their Persecutors. distinctly, and send them up to the next General Meeting.

1675

1675 Meetings about Sufferings first appointed

Agreed. That Certain Friends of this City be here nominated, to keep a Constant Meeting about Sufferings four times in a Year, with the Day & Time of Each Meeting here fixed & settled.

Agreed. That a Meeting of these City Friends under named be every fifth Day of the Week before Each Term.

Ratcliff.	Arthur Cook and Richard Mew
London.	John Osgood and Thomas Rudyard
Wheelerstreet	Francis More and William Welch
Westminster	Gilbert Latie and James Beech.
Peel ----	John Elson. and John Staple
Southwark	William Shewen and Walter Myers

Publick Friends members

These Friends before Named, with as many as are free of the Second Days Morning Meeting of Publick Friends, to meet together as aforesaid.

one of each County

That at Least one Friend of each County be appointed by the Quarterly Meeting thereof, to be in Readiness to Repair to any of the said Meetings at this City, at such Times as their Urgent Occasions or Sufferings shall require.

That the Agreement about the Meeting for Sufferings four Times in a Year in London, be read to the Second Days Meeting of this City Constantly before the Day of Meeting appointed.

That

Sufferings

1675
Poor Friends wasted by Sufferings to be taken Care of

That the respective Quarterly Meetings be Encouraged in the Love of God, and Bowels of his Truth, to take Care of such Poor Friends as have been wasted much with Sufferings; and where any County is not Sufficient to the Loſses among themselves, that they be mindful of the Order of Truth Agreed to, of recommending their Case to the Adjacent Counties.

That notwithstanding the Meeting about Sufferings by the Nominated Friends of this City, It is Consented & Agreed, That in any County, Meeting or Place in England or Wales, where any deep Sufferings may happen, the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings may both State their Case fit to be presented to those in Power, and Send up One Two or Three faithful Friends with their Case so Stated to be presented to attend these in Power therewith for Relief; if they be moved thereunto, or find a neceſsity Lying upon them to Endeavour for Relief; and this is a most likely way to be Effectual in their Applications.

1676

1676 See Records. Article the 12th and the Last, page, 277 and p. 278

1678

1678 Mention is first made of the Weekly Meeting for Sufferings in London.

and See Records, page. 278.

1679

1679
Printing

Agreed that any Quarterly or Monthly Meeting has any Extraordinary or grievious Sufferings in their County, that they would have Printed forthwith that they give Notice thereof, and Send up the same to the Meeting for Sufferings.

1681

1681 That when Sufferings are sent up in Order for Redreſs, of any particular Case, the same be Writ down as well to the Loſs Sustained, Goods destreined, Severe and Illegal Treatment or Usage by Justices or other Persons —

Plain

1681 Plain, pertinent & distinct: as to matter of Fact only: without any Reflections upon the Magistrates & Persons by whom Friends have Suffered, or against whom any Complaint is made.

That Sufferings sent up to be Recorded here, be first perused by the Quarterly Meeting, and signed.

1682

1682 And when necessity requires that Accounts of Sufferings be sent up with such Speed, that they cannot stay to a Monthly or Quarterly Meeting, that such Accounts be viewed and approved under the hands of three or four Friends at Least, to prevent mistakes, and Loose uncertain Accounts of things Complained of: And that before any Accounts be Entered in the Quarterly Meeting Book, the same be plainly & orderly drawn up by some knowing Friends in such Concerns.

Upon Consideration of Sufferings in General. It is the Advice of this Meeting, That in Cases of Difficulty, and where Friends who are Sufferers stand in need of Advice, in any Particular Case; they send up their respective Case, to the Meeting for Sufferings in London.

1684

1684 If a Friends Goods be Seized, and a Neighbour Buy them from the Sherif, and they by Bill of Sale be made over to him, and he Leave them in the Sufferers Possession; It is a Suffering Case, and to be Recorded as it is in it self.

'Tis thought most convenient that all particular Accounts of any great and extream Sufferings which require speedy Application, or Complaint to the King &c, after Carefully drawn up, and Signed by the respective Sufferers, and the truth thereof if Possible Certified by some other faithful Friends of the Same County or neighbourhood, known here; That then they be brought

up

1684 up by One or Two understanding Sound Friends that may be Capable to Present them, if need require, having knowledge of the particular Cases, and that no such account be sent up unsigned.

1688

1688 And it is the desire of Friends generally, That you all be Careful in your Monthly & Quarterly Meetings in Collecting the Sufferings of Friends by Priests and Impropriators for their Testimony against Tithes; and what Goods are taken from them on that account: with the vallue thereof: And also about Repairs of steeple houses; and about not Swearing; and all other Sufferings on Truth's account: And let them be Carefully Recorded, and Witneſsed, and Copies sent up to London from Your Quarterly Meetings to your Correspondents: That the Sufferings of Friends for their Testimony may not be Lost.

Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to Collect Sufferings

1689

1689 See Records, page, 279.

1693

1693 The Meeting for Sufferings is Intrusted with the Care of all Sufferings of Friends for Truth & Consience Sake, as at First intended.

See Records, page, 279

1695

1695 See Records, page, 280

1700

1700 See Records page — 280

1703

Sufferings

1703

1703 And where any Friend or Friends shall be Prosecuted upon any Brach of their Testimony for the Truth; That such Labour in a Sence of the Weight of their Testimony with the Prosecutor, before or at the begining of his Prosecution, that so if possible, the witness of God in him may be reached and he Convinced that their refusal to Comply, proceeds not from Obstinacy, or Self Interest, but from a Godly Care to preserve a Conscience void of Offence towards God & Man.

1746

1746 This Meeting desires, that for the future an Account of all Proceedings in such Suffering Cases as come under the Care of the Meeting for Sufferings, and the Issue thereof, may be duly brought or Sent to that Meeting in Writing; Specifying the Places or Counties where such Sufferers Dwell, with the Several Proceedings in the said Cases, in order to be duly Recorded.

1781

1781 The Testimony of Friends in the nonpayment of Taxes part whereof goes for the Support of war, coming under consideration of this meeting It is our sence and judgment, that the severl Monthly meetings, collect accounts of the sufferings of our Brethren on account of sd. Testimony, and send them up to the meeting for Sufferings, there to be recorded after due inspection, in Friends Book of Sufferings, as our Brethrens Testimony for the truth, against the appropriation of any part thereof to the purposes of war: — and it is recommended to friends that labouring to be preserved unbiased herein as to the powers which are or may be, they keep an eye single to the testimony of Truth against war and fighting

1774 -- Se Meeting for Sufferings page 96

No. 46„ Concerning Talebearing and Backbiting.

1689.

1689 Advised to Watch against and shut out all Occasions of Offences, Contentions and Divisions, and in the Name of the Lord to stop and Judge down all Whisperings, — Tale-bearings, Backbiting, and Evil speaking, tending thereunto, and to be kind & tender hearted One to another, and earnestly Labour & press for universal Love, Union & Peace in all the Churches of Christ.

1692

1692 Advised, to be Careful and Watchful against all Whisperings, Backbitings & Tale carrying, to the defaming Friends or Others; and put a Speedy Stop thereto, and pass righteous Judgment upon all Whisperers & Backbiters, who appear Instruments of Division & Offences, contrary to that Peaceable Truth and Gospel we Profess; and where any have received Offence against any other, first to speak privately to the Party Concerned, and Endeavour Reconciliation betwen them selves, and not to Whisper or Aggravate Matters against them behind their backs, to the making Parties, and the Breach wider.

1695

1695 Let those Just and Antient Commands of God be
observed. Lev: 19:16 "Thou shall not go up & down as
" a Talebearer among thy People. And Exod: 23: 1. Thou
" shalt not raise a false Report. And Psalm. 15. 3.
" He that backbiteth not with his Tongue, nor doth
" Evil to his Neighbour, nor taketh up a Reproach
" against his Neighbour &c. 'tis only such Innocent
Ones

1695 Ones that shall abide in the Lord's Tabernacle & dwell in his holy Hill: Wherefore in the Fear of the Lord, Stand against all Whisperers, Backbiters, Tale-bearers, Defamers and Slanderers; and against all Whisperings, Backbitings, Talebearings, Reproaching and Slandering; and put a Speedy Stop thereto as much as in You Lies; For such Works of Darkneſs and Envy tend to Division and Discord, and the Righteous Law of God goes against bothe the Authors, Fomenters, Receivers and Encouragers thereof, See Prov: 11. 13. & 18. 8. and 20. 19. & 26. 20. 22. and also 2 Cor: 12. 20.

1719

1719 The former Advice of 1695. repeated, with this Addition, and therefore if you hear a Report of a Friend, be Careful not to Report it again, but go to the Person of whom the Report is, and Enquire if it be true or not, and if it be true, then Deal with such a Person for it, according to the Doctrine of Christ, Matt: 18— But if false, then Endeavour as much as in you lies to Stop such Reports; for as Solomon says, a Good Name is rather to be Chosen than great Riches. Prov: 22. 1.

1721 1721 The Advices of 1695 & 1719. Repeated,

1725 1725 The former Advices again Repeated.

1727 1727 The Same again Recommended.

1733

1733. We think proper to Exhort Friends everywhere to avoid all Whisperings, Backbitings, and Talebearings, tending to Blemish the Reputation of any, or to Sow Discord, and Create evil Surmisings One of another: A Practice which ought to be Zealously discouraged, as being of a most pernicious Consequence

1733 Consequence to Society; 'Tis therefore Recommended, That when any shall hear a Report of such a Nature, they take an Opportunity to acquaint the Person Concerned thereof, before they again Report. or be Instrumental to spread the Same: And in order to stop the Mouths of all Tale-bearers and Slanderers. Friends would do Well to manifest their Aversion to such a Practice: The North Wind. saith Solomon, "Driveth away Rain, so doth an angry Countenance a Backbiting Tongue. Prov: 25. 23.

See Defamation — page — 93 & 94.

1744

1744 Whereas it may so happen, that some Friends may Suffer much in their Reputation & Character, by a Detracting Spirit; which too much prevails among some bearing our Name, Who Shelter themselves under a pretence, That they say no more than they have heard from Others; But will not discover who they are: — Wherefore to prevent this Evil of Reporting and Talebearing to the prejudice of Others. It is Agreed, That such Reporters or Talebearers shall either discover the Authors, or be Dealt with, and Testified against as Authors thereof.

No. 47 Concerning Tithes.

1675

1675

our Antient Testimony to be upheld

offenders to be dealt with

Advised That our Antient Testimony against Tithes, which we have Born from the begining, and for which many have deeply Suffered. Some not only the Spoiling of their Goods but Imprisonment even unto Death, be Carefully and punctually upheld and Countenanced in the Power of God; and that all those that Oppose, Slight or Neglect that Testimony be Looked upon, and Dealt withal, as unfaithful to the Antient and universal Testimony of Truth, according to Gospel Order established among Us.

Innocency in Suffering to be kept to See 1689 p. 367

That Truth's Testimony against Tithes, and Friends Innocency in Suffering, be kept to; and tho' Innocent Endeavours may be Used to save them from being taken away, Yet that Friends be Careful of violent Strugling to detain them, when the Adversary comes to take them by Force.

1676

1676

That Tithes taken away by Force be recorded as a Suffering for Truth.

No Consent

That all Friends have a Care that they Neither Openly nor Secretly Consent to the taking away of their Tithes, nor to the Payment of them by any One whatsoever on their behalf, but keep faithfully to their Testimony.

1678

1678 of Tithes in kind

And because Some have not kept an Account of the Tithes in kind, that have been taken from them, as if that were no Suffering, because the Priest's & Impropriators pretended Due; We find ourselves engaged in Spirit to desire You to reckon that of Tithes among

1678 amongst the Other Sufferings that you Send up; and for the time to come to take the same Care of Recording all taken away upon that Account in your Book of Sufferings.

See Records page – 278

1682

1682 It is the Sence of this Meeting, that the Executors who have a Testimony for Truth, have a Testimony against the Paying of the Tithes pretended to be due from the Testator, and ought to bear his Testimony against Payment thereof.

Executors

1687

1687 We do in the Love of God & his bleſsed Truth & Testimony of Jesus Christ, recommend to your tender and Christian Care, That Friends in the Several Counties Do sincerely keep to their Antient and Christian Testimony against that old and great Oppreſsion of Tithes, for which many faithful Friends and Servants of Christ have deeply Suffered (Some till Death in Jayls) and Several Still do Suffer, whereby it appears that the Priests, as they were the First, so they are like to be the last Persecutors for Conscience Sake; – And also We request it of You Carefully to Collect, and make return of all Friends Sufferings for Tithes, as well as other Sufferings, whether by Imprisonments, or by taking away Goods, as Corn, Cattle, or other Goods, either by or without Law, both which are Sufferings and ought to be accounted of, and Entered upon Record, in behalf of all Faithful Friends, who stand Clear in their Testimony for Truth

Tithes taken with or without Law to be Recorded

1689

Tithes

1689

1689 Not to Strive with the Spoilers

We desire your Testimony against Tithes may be kept up in the peaceable Spirit of Christ. as becomes true Christians. rather Suffering patiently in the Spoiling of your Goods, than anyway to Strive, or Struggle with the Spoilers, to retain them by Force; but Singly Commit your Cause to the Lord, who will Plead it, and Judge Righteously.

1690

1690 That all Friends be Faithful in their Testimony against Tithes of all sorts. knowing that since they were Ended by Christ, they were Imposed & Originally Sprung from that Antichristian Root & Popish Usurpation in Church & State; And that Friends would tenderly Consider. that where any decline their Testimony or are negligent in this Weighty Case. They do thereby Increase the Weight and Burthen of Sufferings upon them that are faithful, and Strengthen the hands of their Advisaries.

1691

1691 That the Christian Testimony against Tithes. may be duly kept up. and such as are unfaithful therein be diligently Exhorted to obedience & Faithfulneſs to Christ Jesus. that they may not Strengthen the Persecutors hands, Increase others Sufferings, nor make void Truth's Testimony therein, which so many have offer'd up, & laid Down their Lives for.

1692

1692 That Friends be Careful & diligent to keep up their Antient Christian Testimony against the Oppreſsion of Tithes; For the more faithful & unanimous Friends are therein, We are really perswaded. the Lord will the Sooner make way for our Ease & Deliverance from that Burthen.

1693

Tithes

1693

1693 Advised that our Christian Testimony against the grand Oppression & Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, Born and greatly Suffered for, be faithfully maintained in all respects.

1696.

1696 With respect to a Proposal about taking a Farm and agreeing to Pay so much the more to be exemted from Tithes; It's left to the Several Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to advise Friends to be careful that nothing be done that tends to Weaken our Testimony against Tithes by any; and that such be admonished as they see Cause.

1698

1698 Advised that our Antient Christian Testimony against Tithes be not avoided or shun'd by any indirect ways or Courses with Landlords or otherwise: And that Friends be Careful to keep a true Record of the Vallue of what is taken from them on that Account, in the Field or otherwise; whether it Exceeds the Demand or not, with the respective date of each Suffering; and the time when any Suit is Commenced.

1701

1701 Our Testimony against Tithes and Forced maintainance in this Gospel Day, being received from Christ our Head & High-Priest, is not of our own making or imposing, nor from the Tradition of Men, but what we have from Him, by whose Divine Power we were raised up to be a People, and by which we have been preserved to this Day; knowing that his Ministry & Gospel are free, according to his own Express Command, Freely ye have received Freely give.

1703

1703

1703 This Meeting taking Notice, aswell from the Accounts of Sufferings brought in from divers Counties, as Relations by several Friends now present, that in many Places advantages are Taken upon Friends, by making Stopages

Stoppages upon them in the way of Trade, or by Debtors or otherwise, or by Kindred or Neighbours, Laying down the Money for Tithes, or Church Rates so called, and that this way of proceeding grows & increases upon Friends in many Places.

It is therefore recommended, as the Sence & Advice of this Meeting, to the several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings, to stir up Friends in their respective Meetings to Zeal & faithfulneſs in this respect, That they may not Consent to, or Connive at, such payments Stoppages, or Discountings on such Accounts; But to deal plainly and earnestly with their Relations or Neighbours who shall so pay, or others who shall so stop or Discount, and not Discharge the Debt by Croſsing their Books, if Tradesmen, or otherwise, but keep the Debt still in Demand; And be as wary and careful as they can for the future, to keep such Persons, as much as in them lies, out of a Capacity of Stopping upon them, that they may thereby discourage all such Ways of Proceeding, which tend to weaken or Leſsen their Testimony; and not to bring in such Stoppages as Sufferings, in as much as they do not discharge the Debt, which if they should do, They would thereby allow the Stoppage, and so let fall their Testimony.

This Meeting declares it is their Sence & Judgment,

Impropriate Tithes that no Friend in Truth can either Pay or Receive Impropriate Tithes, being Inconsistent with our Christian Testimony And it's desired Friends of the Several Counties may be Advised thereof

1706

1706

1706 This Meeting understanding that notwithstanding the Judgment and Advice formerly & frequently given by this Meeting against the Payment of Tithes, & more particularly in the Year 1703, against the Paying or Receiving of Tithes, by any that Profeſs the holy Truth with us; there are some Persons who go under our Name do yet continue not only to pay them, but some few also here & there, having Estates in Impropriate Tithes (which are the same in Nature Ground & Root with the Tithes paid to the Priest) Do not forbear as yet to Receive them to the great Dishonour of our holy Profeſsion, and Grief of faithful Friends (Tho: others have Conscientiously and very honourably given up and released them) This Meeting ~~doth~~ thereupon doth now again Signify, as the unanimous Sence & Judgment of Faithful Friends. That for any amongus in this Gospel Day to pay or Receive Tithes (which were a part of the Ceremonial Law: belonged to the Levitical Priesthood, and were abrogated, and taken away by the Coming, and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Croſs) doth directly Oppose and tend to overthrow the Antient Christian Testimony of Truth against Tithes, which hath been born by Friends from the begining of our Day, not only by Word and Doctrine, but by deep Sufferings, and Sealed even with the Blood of some of our Dear & faithful Brethren, who have cheerfully Laid down their Lives by long and hard Imprisonments in Confirmation of that their Conscientious Testimony.

In the Sence hereof. This Meeting doth earnestly Recommend to the several Quarterly & monthly Meetings every where of Friends; that they be Careful and diligent to make general Observations how Friends do

1706 do anſwer and bear up that Testimony against Tithes in their Practice; and if they shall find any going under our Name, that do either Pay or Receive Tithes, that they uſe their beſt and utmost Endeavours, in the Spirit and Order of the Gospel, and in the Exerciſe of great tenderneſs and brotherly Kindneſs, to Inform, Convince, Exhort, Admonish & Reprove, as they see Cause, all such without respect of Persons, in Order to gain and bring them to the Acknowledgement and Obedience of the Truth in that Particular.—

And if after such tender and gentle Dealing with them any such shall Continue in their unfaithfulneſs and opposition to the Principle & Christian Practice of Friends in that Case, That then the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting unto which such Person shall be reputed to belong, having Exercised Christian Patience & forbearance towards such, and finding Themselves Clear in the Sight of God: Do manifest & Declare, that such for their unfaithfulneſs and Opposition to that our Christian Testimony, are unworthy to be Admitted to the meetings for Busineſs among Friends, or to be Received to Join in the Collections made by Friends for the Service of the Church of Christ: and if after that such Persons shall persist in such their unfaithfulneſs and Opposition, That then the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting proceed further in the Lord's Power to give Judgment for the Clearing of Truth and Friends, as in the holy Counsel and Wisdom of God, they shall be directed & guided therein.

1724

1724 Former advices again Recommended.

1725

1725 Tis Advised and earnestly recommended that inasmuch as it doth Appear there is in some places a shortneſs and deficiency in bearing a Faithful Testimony against Tithes; That in any Monthly Meeting which

have

1725 have such Members, after a deliberate Dealing with them, in the Wisdom of Truth, and the Meek Spirit of the Gospel, for their help and Information, Friends have recourse for their further Proceedings to the Yearly Meetings Minute 1706

1727

1727 It doth Appear to this Meeting that Friends in divers places are under Difficulty on account of Stoppages made in respect to Demands for Small Tithes, and Church Rates so called; and for Illegal Seizures without Warrants on such Accounts, which are in some places made, whereby We apprehend a voluntary Compliance is implied, which doth tend to weaken and lay wast our Testimony; And therefore this Meeting doth tenderly Renew the Caution and Advice thereupon given in a Minute in the Year 1703+ whereunto we Refer

+ pa: 369

1730

1730 Friends are heartily desired & Intreated to Read and Disperse Anthony Pearsons Great Case of Tithes, hoping it may have this good Effect, if read with a Single Eye, to manifest the Inconsistancy of Tithes, with the Gospel Dispensation.

1731

1731 Former Advices of this Meeting again recommended, and particularly that in 1706

1732

1732 Recommended to the several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings, tenderly to Advise and Earnestly to Exhort Friends to be Careful in bearing a faithful Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, Priests Maintenance, & Church Rates so Called; the want whereof in some places hath tended

to

1732 to the uneasineſs and Sorrow of many Brethren, and added to the Sufferings of such as have stood faithful in this our Ancient & Christian Testimony.

1733

1733 This Meeting observing a Remiſsneſs in Some Places in respect to our Testimony against that Anti-christian Yoke of Tithes; An earneſt concern & Zeal has been on the Minds of Friends, that all might be Excited and stirred up to faithfulneſs therein; In order whereunto, We think necessary to put you in mind, That the Zeal of our Friends who have abode faithful in their Testimony against Paying Tithes, Steeple-house Rates, and Priests Maintenance, has greatly tended to the opening the Eyes of many not only in this, but also in other Country's: —— We received last Year an Account from New England, where our Friends formerly underwent grievous Sufferings, that a Law is made Exempting them from paying either to the Maintenance of the Established Ministers, or the Repairing of their Worship houses: And it is Our Belief, That if all Friends here had been faithful in their Testimony against Tithes, the Time of our Deliverance from that oppreſsion under which this Nation yet groans, would have been nearer at hand. We do therefore earnestly Exhort to a Close coming up in that, and every other Branch of our Testimony, tending to the promotion of Gospel Liberty; which it has been our Concern ever since We were a People, thro' manifold Sufferings to Maintain.

And if any Weakneſs or unfaithfulneſs shall appear among the Profeſsors of Truth, We hope faithful Friends & Brethren will not be Wanting to administer help and Admonition in the

Love

1733 Love and Counsel of God, as they shall see Occasion, for the Reſtoring and Strengthening of such; according to the Advice given by the Apostle, Gal: 6: 1. Brethren if a Man be overtaken in a Fault, ye which are Spiritual, Restore such an One in the Spirit of Meekneſs.

See Meetings for Discipline, pa. 173.

1734

1734 And Dear Friends, for the sake of those particular Persons in some Places, who yet continue remiſs in maintaining their Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes; We think neceſsary to repeat the Advice given last Year, That Friends as they shall see Occasion, in the Wisdom of God, would Admonish Such, and in a Spirit of Love and Meekneſs Endeavour to help and Strengthen them, and to Excite and Stir them up to faithfulneſs in that Branch of our ancient Testimony.

1735

1735 And Dear Friends, as it hath been the Concern of this Meeting frequently to advise, That Friends should stand faithful in their Testimony against that Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, so We do now renew our Advice in that respect.

And We earneſtly Intreat the faithful among you, to take all Suitable Opportunities of Endeavouring to demonstrate to such as are Weak & unfaithful, the Importance of our Testimony against Receiving or Paying of Tithes, the natural tendency whereof is to Obtain that Liberty which the purest Ages of Christianity Enjoyed, that is, a Liberty for any Person moved by the holy Spirit of God, to Preach the Doctrine of the Glorious Gospel of our

Lord

1735 Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ freely, and of which they were not deprived till such time as great Corruptions of Doctrine and Practice were found amongst the Professors of Christianity, and the Civil Powers were prevailed upon to meddle with the Consciences of the People, which of Right are to be Subjected to God only.

We cannot therefore but Bless the Lord, from an experimental Witnessing of the Comfort & Spiritual Advantage which arises from such a Liberty, that he was pleased to raise up our Worthy Elders, and give them a Testimony against that Antichristian Yoke, making them willing in this and Other Nations to Suffer for that Testimony, thereby shewing to the World what the Love of Christ is able to do; For We believe nothing short of that Love could have enabled them to Suffer the spoil of their Goods, and the Long Imprisonments of their Bodies, even unto Death, as some of them did for their Conscientious Refusal to pay Tithes; and We have reason to believe that if all amongus had followed their Example, by abiding faithful in this our Christian Testimony We might before this time have been in a great measure Relieved from under that Oppression.

1736.

1736 And Dear Friends, as We have ever since we were a People maintained our Christian Testimony against Tithes, and forced Maintenance of Ministers, as contrary to the Nature of the Gospel Dispensation, We cannot but repeat Our earnest Exhortation, That Friends every where Stand fast in the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free; and beware of burthening their own Consciences, by a mean Submission to an Antichristian Yoke of Bondage thro' Fear of Suffering: A meek & Quiet Spirit under temporal Inconveniencies for the sake of our Christian

testimony

1736 Testimony is one of the best proofs of our Sincerity therein, and may be a means of Effectually recommending Us to the Compassion of those whom God has placed in Authority over us to whose hands He has Committed the Power of giving us Relief, and from whom it becometh us to seek it with Humility and Patience

1737

1737 This Meeting being informed that Friends in several Parts of this Nation are in the Practice of Calling on their Members to bring in an Account of their Sufferings for their Testimony against that Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, &c - And to Enquire whether such as bring in no Account, Do stand clear in their Testimony; which having had a good Effect; It's therefore recommended, that Friends through the Nation fall into the said Practice; And if they find any deficient, and persist in the same, that such Friends be dealt with pursuant to the directions, and former Advice of this Meeting, and particularly in 1733+, and those recommended therein.

+p: 373 & 374 & p. 173.

You have been often reminded of the Importance of our Ancient Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, and as You are Convinced in Your Consciences of their Inconsistancy with the Nature of the Gospel Dispensation, 'tis certainly your necessary Duty to Act agreeable to such Convictions; And if Suffering for your Testimony shall be the Consequence of your Obedience therein 'twill become You, after the Example of the primitive Christians, Chearfully to submit it, & to take Joyfully the Spoiling of your Goods, that so you may preserve a Conscience void of Offence towards God,

and

1737 and at the sametime by your Christian Meekneſs & innocent Deportment, give reasonable Evidence of your Sincerity to Men.

See Trading. page.

1738

1738 We therefore tenderly Exhort all who Profeſs the Truth, to watchfulneſs and Zeal, that this Branch of our Christian Testimony be not laid wast by Connivance, or private agreement with Priests or Impropriators; But that all abide Patient under that Testimony which the Lord hath called us to bear, not doubting but that the gradual Progreſs of real Christianity will at length operate to the Removal of a Yoke so directly Contrary to the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.

1742

1742 --See Questions. page. 272.

1744

1744 --See Questions, page, 273

1750

1750 Whereas it appears that the Method of taking the Priests Demands, without Warrants, or due form of Law, prevails more in some places than heretofore; Friends are therefore Intreated to be as much upon their Guard as poſsible, against the Introduction of any Practices that may tend to Encourage Unfaithfulneſs or Collusion, a Disposition altogether unbecoming the nobility of Truth, and inconsistent with the Uprightneſs it Requires.

Taxes

1781 See page 351

Testimony

1760 it is recommended to the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings to appoint suitable friends to collect Memorials of the living servises and dying saying of Ministers, Elders and other friends whose lives were remarkable for true piety & faithfulneſs with the time of their birth and death as near as may be, with a Distinction between ministers and elders and Others and where they Lived, and that such collections be inspected by each Quarterly and Monthly Meeting and from thence send them up to this Meeting to be recorded. —

Nº48. Concerning Tombstones

1717

1717 This Meeting being informed. That Friends in some places have gone in to the vain and Empty Custom of Erecting Monuments over the Dead Bodies of Friends, by Stones. Inscriptions, Tombstones, &c. — And being very desirous Friends should keep a Commendable Plainneſs and Simplicity in this as well as other respects; Its therefore the Advice of this Meeting, that all such Monuments as are already in being over Dead Bodys of Friends, should be removed, as much as may be with Discretion & Conveniency: And that none be any where made or Set up by or over the Dead Bodies of Friends, or others in Friends Burying Places for time to Come.

No. 49 Concerning Trading.

1675

1675 Advised, that none Trade beyond their Ability, nor stretch beyond their Compaſs; and that they use few Words in Dealing, and keep their Words in all things, lest they bring through their forwardneſs, Dishonour to the precious Truth of God.

1688.

1688 Advice, Not to Launch forth into Trading and worldly Busineſs beyond what they can manage - honourable, and with Reputation among the Sons of Men, and so that they may keep their words with all men, and that their Yea may prove Yea indeed, and their nay may be nay indeed, for whatever is otherwise cometh of the Evil One: And such who make themselves Guilty by thus Dishonouring God, and the holy Profeſsion of his Name & Truth, Such are for Judgment by the Truth, and the Judgment of the Truth ought to be set over them, that the Truth and those that abide and walk in it may be Clear of their Iniquities

1692

1692 It is Advised and earnestly desired, that the Payment of Just Debts be not Delayed by any Profeſsing Truth, beyond the Time promised & agreed upon, nor Occasion given of Complaint to those they Deal with, by their Backwardneſs of Payment where no time is limited; nor any to overcharge themselves with too much Trading and Commerce beyond their Capacities to discharge a Good Conscience towards all Men; And that all Friends Concerned be very Careful not to Contract Extravagant Debts to the Endangering the Wronging others & their Families

Trading

1692 Families, which some have Done, to the grieving the hearts of the upright; Nor to break their promises Contracts or Agreements in their Buying or Selling, or in any other Lawful Affairs, to the Injuring themselves or Others; Occasioning Strife Contention & Reproach to Truth and Friends: And it is advised; That all Friends that are Entering into Trade, or that are in Trade, and have not Stock Sufficient of their own to answer the Trade they aim at, be very Cautious of Running themselves into Debts, without advising with some of their Ancient & Experienced Friends among whom they Live, and more especially such Trading as hath its Dependence on Sea Adventures.

1697

1697 See Plainneſs, page, 223.

1702

1702 We earnestly desire that all profeſsing the Bleſsed Truth with us, be very careful to keep their Words & Promises, by paying their Just Debts without unreasonable delay, and do Justice to all Men, for Righteouſneſs sake, and to prevent the great reproach and Scandal of Defrauding any Persons by breaking in their Debts, or otherwise Injuring any.

1703

1703 Advised, That all Friends be weighty & Circumspect in their Conduct & Management of their Outward Affairs, and careful to keep within Compaſs of Their own Subſtance, to prevent Failures & Breaches.

1708

1708 To prevent the great Scandal & Reproach which any Profeſsing Truth may bring on it, by Breaking in other Mens debts; We remind you to Exercise a Godly Care therein as much as in you lies, by Giving

timely

1708 timely Caution to any Such as either Break their Promises, or delay the Payment of their Just Debts, or otherwise render themselves suspected.

1709

1709 Truth leads all who faithfully follow it, to do Right & Justice to all, and not Defraud or wrong any, in any way of Commerce, Trade, Trust, or Dealing, much leſs to put any abuse upon the Government, &c.

See Kings & Governours, page, 129.

Also the Advice in 1703, again Recommended.

1710

1710 Considering the great Suffering that hath been brought upon Truth and faithful Friends, by divers profeſsing Truth amongst us, breaking their Words, Promises & Obligations, to the great Injury of Others, by not Paying their Just Debts in due Time, and the sad Consequences thereof, and Reproaches brought thereby; notwithstanding our great Care, and many Warnings given for prevention thereof; which being too many to recite here; We refer you to the Advice formerly Given by our Ancient Friend & Brother G: F: to Shopkeepers, Merchants, Factors or any other Friends; which this Meeting hath thought proper to Recommend unto you in Print, and advise that it be read in your Quarterly and monthly Meetings, as you may see Occasion, at Least once a Year.

1720

1720 Let all Promises and Obligations for Payment of Just Debts be truly kept & performed.

1724

1724 'Tis earnestly desired, that all Friends everywhere be very Careful to avoid all inordinate pursuit

after

1724 after the things of this World. by such Ways and means as depend too much on the uncertain probalities of hazardous Enterprises, but rather Labour to Content themselves with such a plain way and manner of Living as is most agreeable to the Self-denying Principle of Truth which We profeſs, and which is most Conducive to that Tranquility of mind, that is requisite to a Religious Conduct through this Troublesome World. ——

And the Advice in 1710. Repeated.

1727

1727 'Tis earnestly desired that all Friends be very Careful not to run into Larger Trading & Buſineſs than their Capacities & Abilities can well anſwer; And that they may frequently Inspect their Circumstances, and do not Live at an Expence beyond them: And if thro' Adverse accidents any should fail in paying their Just Debts, and should after his or her Composition with his or her Creditors, be so far Bleſs'd and Proſpered in their Affairs, as to be Capable of paying their Deficiencies; It is the earnest Deſire & Advice of this Meeting, that they do not Omit the same. It being agreeable to the Command of the Goſpel. and Common Justice among men.

See Negroes, page. 203

1728

1728 Forasmuch as repeated Occasion hath been given of great Grief & Affliction to Friends, which hath caused the way of Truth to be Evil spoken of. by the Launching out of divers under our Profeſsion. too far into the Affairs of this World. to their own hurt, the Reproach of the Society, and Wronging other Persons of their Just Properties: We recommend great Care & Circumspection to all Friends in this

Respect

1728 Respect, and in particular do Refer to the Advices in the Yearly Epistles 1710 and 1724 and last Year; - and do Deſire Friends at their Several Monthly Meetings, to use their utmost Endeavours, by a Watchful Eye, to prevent, as much as in them lies, all such unjust Practices and Scandals.

1729

1729 Notwithstanding many are the good & wholsome Advices, which in former Years have been recommended from this Meeting Exhorting to faithfulneſs & Perseverance in all Godlineſs and honesty; yet to our Grief we find there are fresh Instances of great Shortneſs in coming up in in the Practice thereof; particularly by some injurious defrauding their Creditors of their Just Debts, and not performing their Word and promise, which have Occasioned grevious Complaints; Wherefore We deſire and Intreat, when any such Occasion of Reproach shall be, that whatsoever Monthly Meeting within the Compaſs whereof it may happen, they do not fail Speedily to set righteous Judgment on the head of the Transgreſsor.

1730

1730 See Meetings for Discipline, page, 171.

1731

1731 See Conversation page, 60.

1732

1732 We find it our Duty to remind our respective Members of the remarkable Uprightneſs & honesty of our Friends in the Begining, in their Commerce and Converse; How Exact were they in performing their Words and Promises, without evasive Excuses, and insincere Dealings! How Careful not to Involve themselves in Buſineſs which they understood not, nor had Stock of their own to manage! How Circumspect not to Contract greater

1732 greater Debts than they were able to pay in due Time! Which brought great Credit & Reputation to our Religious Society: But with Sorrow we observe that Contrary to their Example, and the repeated Advices formerly Given by this Meeting, particularly in the Years 1729 & 1731, against an inordinate pursuit after Riches, too many have Launched into Trade and buſineſs above their Stocks & Capacities, by which unjustifiable Proceedings, and High Living, they have Involved themselves & Families in Trouble and Ruin, and brought Considerable Loſs upon Others, to the great Reproach of our holy Profeſsion.

We therefore recommend to Friends in their respective Quarterly & Monthly Meetings to have a watchful Eye over all their Members, and where they observe any Deficient in discharging their Contracts and Just Debts in due Time, so as to give reasonable Suspicion of Weakneſs or Negligence, that Friends Do earnestly Advise them to a Sutable Care, and neceſsary Inspection into their Circumstances in order that they may be helped: And if any proceed contrary to such Advice, and by their failure bring open Scandal & Reproach on the the Society, that then Friends Justifiably may, and ought to Testify against such Offenders.

1735

1735 Again Dear Friends, We esteem it our Duty to Renew our former Advices, That Friends every where take diligent Care to prevent, as much as poſsible, Persons profeſsing with us defrauding their Creditors of their Just Dues, to the great Scandal and Reproach of our holy Religion, by timely Admoniſhing and Cautioning all those of our Society, who by delays in payment, and breaking their Words and promises, give Reaſonable Cauſe of Suſpicion that

their

1735 their Circumstances are desperate: Advising all Such to Inspect their Accounts, and Give up their Effects in time in order to make the best they can to their Creditors; which will most conduce to their own Peace, and Credit & Reputation of our Christian Society. — But if any through Ambition or desire of Grandeur in the World, shall reduce themselves to Insolvency, after having been thus plainly Cautioned & Dealt with, according to the Nature of the Offence, and pursuant to the Advices of this Meeting in the Years 1728 and 1732 to which We refer You, then the Society will justly be Clear of Reproach arising from the Misconduct of Such. — A Care of this Nature, We earnestly recommend, not only to Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, but also that Friends in their Private Capacity watch over, Advise and Caution One another whenever they observe any real Occaſion for it.

1737

1737 As some Reproach and Scandal have been brought upon our Religious Society, by Some bearing our Name falling short of anſwering their just Debts, and others Profeſsing with us, being unfaithful in bearing a Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, Notwithſtanding the Several wholesome Advices given from this Meeting to the Contrary: We Declare it to be the Sense and Judgment of this Meeting, That no Person who shall fail as aforesaid, ought to be Admitted to Act in Meetings for Buſineſs, or Join with Friends in Collecting for the Poor and the Service of the Church, untill they have made Satiſfaction to the Monthly Meeting they belong to, and Done what is in their Power, to take of the Reproach they have

by

Trading

1737 by their imprudent Conduct brought on our Christian Principle. —— ——

See Conversation page, 64.

1738.

See Conversation page, 65.

1738

No. 50 Concerning Wills.

1691

1691 Advised That Care be taken in each Monthly Meeting that Friends who have Estates to Dispose of by Will or otherwise, be particularly Advised to make their Wills, or Settle their Estates, in due time, to prevent the Inconveniencies, Loss & Trouble that may follow upon their Relations & Friends, and Injury to the Poor, thro their Dying Intestate; Delays and Omissions in this Case having been very prejudicial in divers Respects.

1695

1695 The above repeated, with this Addition ——
Making such Wills in due time, will Shorten no Mans Days; But the Omission or Delay thereof has proved very pernicious to many, and Injurious to Truth.

1696

1696 See Poor, page, 235

1703

1703 Knowing how quickly many are removed by Death 'tis weightily recommended, That all Friends in Time of health, and Strenght of Judgment, take Care firmly to make their Wills, and to Dispose of their Substance, as in Justice and Wisdom may be agreeable to their Satisfaction.

1705

1705 The advice in 1703 repeated.

1706

1706 See Orphans, page, 211

1710

1710 This Meeting recommends the Visiting the Sick amongst

1710 amongst Friends timely, and see that they mak their Wills in due Time.

1713

1713 Desired, That Friends will take Care that none do unadvisedly bring themselves or Others into Sufferings by undertaking Trusts or Executorships — where they cannot Legally discharge that Trust.

1715

1715 Advised, That Trustees and Executors concerned in Wills and Settlements do take special Care, that They faithfully discharge their respective Trusts, according to the Intent of the Doners & Testators: And that all Charitable Gifts, Legacies, Bequests and Settlements of Estates by Will or Deed, intended and Given for the use of the Poor, the Aged, the Impotent, or putting Poor Friends Children to Education, or Apprenticeships, may not be Appropriated, or Converted to any other Uses than such as the — Donors and Testators have directed & Enjoined them by Legal Settlement, Will, or Testament.

No. 51. Concerning the Yearly Meeting ..

1672

1672 Agreed. That One or Two of each County. that are Concern=
=ed in the publick Service of the Truth in each respective
Yearly County do come up to this Meeting Once a Year; to be
meeting Chosen or Elected by the Quarterly Meetings of each —
Conſtituted County respectively for that purpose.

And the publick Labourers to be here in the
same Week. on the Second Day at Even at farthest.

That for the better ordering. managing and
to be held Regulating of the Pulick affairs of Friends relating
at London to the Truth, and the Service thereof; There be a
, in General Meeting of Friends held at London Once
Whitsun a Year. in the Week called Whitsun Week to Consist
Week of Six Friends for the City of London —

Three for the City of Bristol.

Representa Two for the Town of Colchester. and
=tives
to be One or Two from each County in England and
Chosen Wales to be Chosen at their respective Quarterly —
Meetings next preceeding the said Week called Whit
=sun Week. and to be in London on the Second Day of
that Week.

As many Friends that Labour in the Truth, as
Miniſters have Freedom thereunto may be present at the said
to be there. Meeting.

All others except such as are Nominated by the
Quarterly Meetings. are desired to forbear Coming
to the said General Meeting; Except such Friends
as they when Met together shall see meet to admit.

The said Yearly Meeting of Representatives
to Continue till farther order.

1673

1673 Agreed. That the General Meeting consisting
of Two Friends from each Quarterly Meeting about

publick

1673 meeting of Representa-tives discontinued

publick Buſineſs, appointed 29th of the Third Month 1672, till further Order, be discontinued till Friends in Gods Wisdom shall see further Occaſion.

That the General Meeting of Friends who Labour in the work of the Ministry do Continue as formerly appointed.

1677

1677 Then; Agreed that the Yearly Meeting of One or Two from each County, as formerly agreed upon at a General Meeting in London, upon the 29th of the Third Month 1672, appointed Yearly to meet about the publick Affairs of Friends, sometime in the Week called Whitsun Week, until further Order, and afterwards agreed to be discontinued from the 21st of the Third Month 1673 till Friends in Gods Wisdom should see a further Occaſion for it. Bei[illegible] again Revived and begun this time Twelve Month, and then Friends to Advise about the Continuance thereof, as they in God's Counsel shall see Occaſion.

Revived

1678

1678 It is the desire of this Meeting, That you would Nominate One or Two Friends to come up the next year at the Usual Time, for the Service of Truth, and that they bring with them the Total of the Sufferings of the foregoing Year not before sent us; & what soever else you desire Information or Aſſiſtance in, Let it be Writ & Subſcribed by some of your Meeting in the Name of the rest: The End of this Meeting not being Limited to the Case of Sufferings, but Intended for the more General Service of the Truth, and Body Friends: in all those things wherein We may be Capable to ſerve One another in Love.

Sufferings

Information & aſſiſtance

the End & intent of the meetg.

1679

1679

1679 Agreed. That Friends be desired in their Quarterly Meetings respectively to take Care to appoint Some faithful Friend or Friends to attend this Meeting this time twelve month as formerly.

NB. Since this time it has annually Continued.

1681

1681 Wales. A Yearly Meeting in Wales agreed to be held about a month before that of London.

1688 &c.

1688 1690 1691 See Representatives, annis, 1688, 1690, 1691, p. 301

1694

1694 Bristol. Agreed. That the Friends of the West of England may have a Yearly Meeting for Worship at Bristol.

1695

1695 Intent of Yearly meetings. The Good and bleſsed Intent & End of This, and all our Aſsemblies, is, with the Lord's Aſsistance, for his honour, in the promoting and Maintaining of our Christian Society and Religion in Life and Practice in all the Parts and Branches thereof.

1696

1696 See Epistles, page, 113.

1697

1697 Women publick Friends Ordered, that such faithful Women Friends as have a publick Testimony, That are in the City at the time of the Yearly Meeting, may have their Liberty to Sit with their Ministring Brethren at their Second Days Morning yearly Meeting for Worship.

1698

Yearly Meeting

1698

1698 Northern yearly meeting A Proposition that Friends may have a Yearly Meeting for Worship only, for their Comfort, and to provoke one another to Love and Good Works, for the Counties of Cumberland, Westmoreland, Lancashire, and Cheshire, and any other Neighbouring Counties that are free to Join with them. Consented to, untill This Meeting shall otherwise direct, And upon Condition ~~[illegible]~~ that it may not Interfere with the Service and Power of this Meeting ~~1699 [illegible]~~.

1699

1699 Declared. That it was & is the Intent of this Meeting, That those Meetings which are or shall be held yearly in any of the Counties or Places in England, distinct from this Meeting, be only for Worship; also that they Continue only from Year to Year, entirely Subject to the Advice of this Meeting.

1700.

1700 See Representatives. page. 301.

1706

1706 See Questions. page. 270

1707

1707 Agreed. That when this Meeting directs the Morning Meeting or any other Meeting to a Service, That hence forth the said Meetings should be provided to give an account to the next Yearly Meetg.

1709

1709 Representatives, not to go out of Town before the Meeting Ends. — See Representatives. p. 302.
And see Meetings for Discipline p. 167.

1710

1710 orderly managing the Business It is the desire and Agreement of this Meeting, That the Business and Concerns thereof be Solidly in the Fear of God, managed and Carried on without Contention

1710 Contention or Striving. and with as few Words. and in as pertinent Expreſsions to the matter in hand as may be. for Expedition of the Affairs thereof without Loſs of Time, or any ways disordering the Meeting: But One at a time Speaking and Standing up; That all things may be done decently & in good Order.

1718

1718 The Intent & Deſign of yearly meet.g. Friends are reminded, That the Intent and holy Deſign of our Annual Aſsemblies, in their first Constitution, was for a Great and Weighty oversight & Christian Care of the Affairs of the Churches, pertaining to our holy Profeſsion and Christian Communion; That Good order True Love, Unity and Concord may be faithfully followed and maintained among all of Us, As a peculiar People Called and Chosen out of the World, and the Errors & Corruptions thereof; knowing also that Sincere Love & Union in general, will be a great Cause of Truth's Proſperity among our selves, and of the prevalency thereof over the World, and the Spirit of it, All which Seriously Considered, We Sincerely deſire and humbly hope, That God will graciously please more & more to put it into the hearts of Friends & Brethren to be Zealously Concerned that Universal Love, true Union, Peace & Concord be followed and maintained in all the Churches of Christ, And all the Contrary, as Enmity division Discord & Strife watched against & shut out forever, that the Power & Peace of our God may prevail & Rule in all our hearts more & more, whereunto we are Called in One Body, that the God of Love & Peace may be with us for ever, which is the Earnest Deſire & Travel of the Souls of all the faithful.

1719

1719 Advised. that the Several Meetings do Commit the Epistles of the Yearly Meeting, whether Printed or Writtain, to the Custody of Some Sutable and Able Friend, to whom Friends may have Recourse as Occasion Requires; Or they may be Read in Meetings at Sutable Opportunities.

See Meetings for Discipline p. 169.

Yearly Meeting

1720

1720 By a Proposal from the Yearly Meeting in Bristol, held the 16th & 17th Days of the Third Month last Sent by Samuel Bownas and Joseph Dibble ——

a Circular yearly meeting in the Western Counties

Deſiring Liberty from this Meeting, to set up a Circular Yearly Meeting for Worſhip, in the Counties of Cornwall Devon, Gloucester, Hereford, Somerset Wilts, Worcester, and Bristol; The First Circular Meeting to begin the Second first Day in the Seventh Month next Coming at Bradford; —— The said Proposal being taken into Consideration, It is Agreed. That the said Circular Meeting may be held, Provided it be with theſe Reſtrictions; First, that the Meeting be for Worſhip only: and Secondly, That the time of holding the said Circular Yearly Meeting be in the Seventh month in every Year.

1731

1731. See Conversation. page. 60

1732

1732 Papers to be signed

It is agreed, That all Papers to this Meeting from Half Yearly, Quarterly, or Monthly Meetings ought to be Signed in Such Meetings.

Choosing Cashiers.

It is agreed, that for the future, the Meeting for Sufferings shall Nominate Six Friends out of their own Members, to this Yearly Meeting, in order for this Meeting to Choose Three out of them instead of those who are to go out, to be Cashiers for this Meetings Stock; and that the Persons so Nominated be such as are Members of the said Meeting.

1733.

1733

1733
Method for Chooſing a Clerk

Agreed. That in order to prevent Debate in the yearly Meeting, respecting the Choice of a Clerk, that the several Meetings that are Members of this yearly Meeting, be divided into Five Districts, as follows, Viz.t

North

Yorkshire. Durham. Northumberland. Cumberland. Westmorcland. Lancashire. Cheshire, Scotland.

South

London, Middlesex, Surry Suſsex, Kent, Hampshire Birkshire.

East

Eſsex, Colchester, Suffolk, Norfolk, Norwich, Lincolshire, Cambridgeshire & Ely, Huntingdonshire

West

Cornwall Devonshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, Bristol. Wiltshire, Gloucestershire. Herefordshire, Worcestershire, North Wales,, South Wales.

Midland

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Warwick=shire, Northamptonshire, oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hartfordshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire.

And that a Clerk be annually Chosen by one of the said Districts in the Course and Order that they do now Stand;

And that as the Clerk for the present Year is of the Northern District, So next Year One to be Chosen by the Friends of the Southern; And the Year following by the East, and the next Succeeding year by the West; And the Year after that by the

midland

1733

Midland District; And so on in a continual Rotation, until the Same shall be altered by the Yearly Meeting.

And in Order that the Election of a Clerk as aforesaid, may be made in a Convenient manner. We think it will be proper, that the Meetings Composing the Districts on whom the Election for that Year doth fall, be first Called over. And the Names of the Representatives of such Meetings be first Entred; And that they then immediately Retire into the Chamber, in Order to a Nomination of a proper Person to propose to the Meeting for their Approbation as a Clerk for that Year.

Advice concerning deputing proper Persons to attend the Yearly Meeting: See Representatives page, 303

1735

1735 Propositions to be in Writing

This Meeting desires that all Propositions from any Monthly, Quarterly, Half Yearly or Yearly ~~Meet~~ Meetings to this Meeting, be delivered in Writing and ſigned by order of such Meetings.

2nd Days morning yearly meeting

Ordered, that the Second Days Morning Meeting which preceeds every Yearly Meeting, do only Consist of Publick Friends, and such Friends as are or ſhall be, pursuant to the Minute of 1727 appointed to Sit in the Morning Meeting of London or any other Meeting of Miniſtring Friends.

Conclusion of the meeting

It is agreed, that Immediately after the Finishing of the Buſineſs of this Meeting, there be a Seasonable Opperdunity for the Ministring Friends and other Members, in the Wisdom of Truth, to speak what may be upon their minds to Mutual Comfort and Edification, and it is Ordered,

That

1735 That at ſuch times, no Persons be permitted to ſtay in the Meeting, Except Publick Friends Repre=sentatives and Correspondents: ——

After which it is agreed that a publick parting Meeting be held.

1736

1736 Letters Ordered that all Letters directed to the Yearly Meeting, except from such Meetings as regularly Correspond therewith, be perused by a Committee who are to Consider and Report whether the Same be Proper to be read in the Meeting or not.

1742

1742 See Questions, page — 272.

1745

1745 See Appeals - page — 4.

1746

1746 See Representatives. page - 303

1750

1750 This Meeting Observing with great concern, a Deficiency in Divers Counties in not duly Attending this Meeting; Some being Represented but by One Friend, and One without any, can not but Strongly recommend an Observance of the Minute in 1728+ which directs that not leſs than four Friends —— ſhould be appointed for Each County, that in Case of Sickneſs or other Accident, there may be a Sufficient Number to anſwer the Service of the Meeting, by the want of which the Buſineſs is too often Obstructed.

+ See Represen=tatives page. 302